

## How to present an argument using linking words and phrases

There are some words and expressions that will help you to elaborate your argument. Most pieces of formal writing are organised in a similar way: introduction; development of main ideas or arguments; conclusion. Linking words and phrases join clauses, sentences, and paragraphs together.

### Do you know how to present an argument?

A piece of writing and or text may include the following:

#### 1) Present your opinion and support it with examples and evidence.

##### a) Expressing your opinion:

- In my opinion,
- Personally, I believe
- I think
- From my point of view,
- If I were in that situation, I would personally do...

##### b) Agreeing and disagreeing:

- I agree with
- I do not agree/ I disagree with

##### c) Giving examples and evidence:

- For example
- For instance
- Such as
- In the case of
- As shown by
- To illustrate

#### 2) Introduce reasons for your opinion

##### a) Introducing reasons

- Because
- Since
- The reason for this is
- The first reason for this is/ The second reason is / Another reason is

b) Talking about consequences/ results

- As a consequence
- As a result (of)
- Therefore
- Because of
- For this reason
- Consequently
- So

**3) Provide reasons why people should not agree with those opposing your views.**

a) Introducing counterarguments

- Although
- Many people believe
- Some may argue
- It is true that ... but it is also important to consider
- Despite what people say
- Even so

**4) Persuade your audience to accept your conclusion**

- So
- We can see that
- In short
- On the whole, it is more important to...

### Some other linking words you can use to provide arguments

<b>Sequencing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First/ Firstly / First of all</li> <li>• Second/ Secondly/</li> <li>• Third/ Thirdly</li> <li>• Finally</li> <li>• To begin with→ In the second place→ Moreover</li> <li>• → To conclude</li> </ul>	<b>Addition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, / Additionally</li> <li>• Moreover,</li> <li>• Furthermore,</li> <li>• As well as</li> <li>• Also</li> <li>• Besides</li> <li>• Not only... but also</li> <li>• On top of that</li> <li>• Another point is...</li> <li>• Too</li> </ul>	<b>Contrasting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However</li> <li>• Nevertheless</li> <li>• (On the one hand)... On the other hand</li> <li>• Whereas</li> <li>• On the contrary</li> <li>• Conversely</li> <li>• Although</li> <li>• In spite of</li> <li>• Despite</li> <li>• Even though</li> <li>• Nonetheless</li> </ul>
<b>Comparing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similarly</li> <li>• Likewise</li> <li>• Like</li> <li>• In the same way</li> <li>• Equally</li> </ul>	<b>Emphasizing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above all</li> <li>• In particular</li> <li>• Especially</li> <li>• Significantly</li> <li>• Indeed</li> </ul>	<b>Summarizing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conclude</li> <li>• To sum up</li> <li>• To summarize</li> <li>• In short</li> <li>• In other words</li> <li>• In brief</li> <li>• On the whole</li> <li>• As a conclusion</li> </ul>

### Examples of arguments for/ against a situation

*"My ex - wife was an alcoholic who spent tens of thousands of pounds on gin during our marriage. She was in hospital several times last year because of liver damage. We feel that her alcoholism is an illness and that she therefore deserves free NHS treatment"*

Personally, I agree with this statement for two main reasons. First, I think everybody has the right to access health treatment, even if this person has caused the damaged to herself. From my point of view, having access to health treatment is a human right and all citizens should be provided with medical care that includes regular appointments with the doctor and the necessary medicine to treat their illness.

Second, if all the other people who have liver damage can receive treatment, why would the government deny treatment to someone else just because she is an alcoholic? In this case, the government should provide both treatments, for liver damage and rehabilitation for alcoholism. I

know that some people may argue that this person does not deserve free treatment because “she did this to herself”, but they need to consider that alcoholism is an illness too. Therefore, this person did not cause herself liver damage on purpose. Instead, she is just a person who needs someone to help her and not to judge her.

*“I approve of the fact that the death penalty exists in some American states. My aunt was murdered by someone who had already killed five other people. Because we live in Spain, the murderer will simply go to prison and my taxes will help to pay for his upkeep”*

Personally, I do not agree with this statement for two main reasons. First, I think nobody has the right to decide if another person deserves to live or die, even if this person has already killed someone else. From my point of view, there are other punishments that can be more effective. For example, life sentence, since the murderer can use this time to think about his/her actions and hopefully, to rehabilitate. In addition, I believe that killing the murderer does not make us better people, this just makes us his/her equal.

Second, the fact that our taxes pay for the prisoners upkeep it is not a problem for me since it is important that our taxes are used for improving health and education services as well as the conditions of jails. Even though the people who are in prison committed a crime, they are still human beings, and they deserve to live in a safe, clean, and suitable environment.