

INAUGURAL SESSION - WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE COMPOSITION

S.No.	Questions asked by the Students	Answers given by the Resource Person
1	Can the 'Explanation' be of 3 to 4 sentences?	Yes, the explanation can be in 3 or 4 sentences.
2	Please explain the meaning of the word 'Exposition' once again.	Exposition means to expose - to open up or to reveal.
3	Can we mention a few negative statements for the topic in the middle of the essay and then come back to the main argument?	It is best to stay on one side of the argument only. Do not stray in to the other side.
4	How many reasons must we write for agreeing or disagreeing with the given statement?	I think three reasons would be adequate, otherwise, time management may become a problem.
5	Do we start attempting the topic we have chosen with a quote or with the topic heading?	Unless your quote genuinely supports your argument, or is an integral part of the theme, there is no need to start with a quote.
6	How do we boost our vocabulary skills and conceptual power?	That's a long term goal! Listen as much as you can to correctly spoken English, and read as much as you can.
7	Can we write an argumentative composition starting with a question?	Yes, there is no rule that says you may not begin with a question.
8	An argumentative essay is said to be like a debate, so can we use question marks and other exclamatory marks in the essay just like in a debate, to make our stand more emphatic?	Yes, you may certainly use punctuation marks, but use them in the correct places. There is no need to use multiple question marks i.e. ??????, when you have a single question.
9	How do we know which keywords to use that will make the essay more distinctive?	No, there are no key words for you to use, the words are in the topic. Correct and appropriate vocabulary is better than using a big word which is out of context.
10	While writing an argumentative essay, is it necessary to give examples after mentioning each point or do we have to give examples in a separate paragraph?	Examples may be given after each argument, or they may be given at the end of the reasons. Either way is acceptable.
11	How do you structure an argument?	The 6 E steps which we took today is an example of how the structure is set. (Evocation / Explanation / Exposition / Examples / Exceptions / End)
12	Is it good to use descriptive words in an Argumentative Essay?	The argumentative composition is an exercise in Logic. If you need to describe something in the argument, please do use descriptive words.

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13	Please suggest some good ways to end an argumentative composition.	The end of the composition must reiterate your initial stand, so repeat emphatically your first sentence.
14	If we were to write in the favour of 'abolishment of school uniforms', what could we write?	You must give points on why school uniforms are unsuitable e.g. Western clothes in a tropical climate, prohibitive costs, lack of individuality, etc.
15	Can we exclude the 'Exception' part as it a very soft part of the composition and this could hamper our argument?	Yes, I have mentioned this, you may leave out exceptions.
16	If we have a large number of points to support our stand, then do we need to explain each and every point?	You have to complete your composition in 350 words, please pick out your most important points and state them.
17	Can the 'Exception(s)' form one complete paragraph?	Do not use one paragraph for each of the steps, they should be merged. Your entire composition should be in 3 or 4 paragraphs.
18	Can we start the Argumentative composition with an anecdote?	Of course, you may begin with an anecdote.
19	Can I write either 2 or 4 examples in the 'Exposition' part of the Argumentative essay?	Yes you may, add the examples along with the reasons.
20	While writing the essay will I be penalised if I exceed 350 words?	You will not be penalised if you exceed the word limit, you may not have time to complete the other parts of the question paper.
21	Will 'Exceptions' not make us lose marks, as we shall also be writing for the opposite side?	That is why if you give exceptions you must protect your argument by using words such as - Rarely, Sometimes, Some people may think, etc
22	Could we use BLOCK WORDS / highlighter in a composition sometimes for laying emphasis on certain terms?	You could highlight certain words but there is no need to. Let me assure you that every word is read.
23	Can we give real life examples to support our stand?	Of course, both real life experiences and historical facts are acceptable.
24	How do I link the 'Exception' to the conclusion of the composition?	You could say "although.....I still firmly believe that.....".
25	After we give an 'Exception', eg. "Some people may think uniforms hamper individuality but...", how do we come back to our stance and try to counteract the statement?	Reaffirm your stand by saying, "although.....I still firmly believe that.....".

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26	Is it necessary to keep in mind the reader's sentiments while writing an argumentative essay?	All who read and evaluate your work are fair minded people, but the writer should also be moderate in his/her language and opinion.
27	Are there certain things/points which should not to be mentioned/used in an argumentative essay?	Again I will emphasize, all who read and evaluate your work are fair minded people, but the writer should also be moderate in his/her language and opinion.
28	Could you please explain how we can articulate on 'Exceptions' without making our arguments seem forced, or contradicting ourselves?	Protect yourself by using words like - rarely, sometimes, some people may think that, etc.
29	Could we make a statement, " I am for the motion" OR " I am against the motion" while writing the composition?	Yes, you could begin by stating your stand.
30	How do I introduce an 'Exception' in my composition?	You could say, some people may argue that.... rarely do we find.... .
31	What do we stress upon more- Exposition,Explanation or Examples?	I would say Exposition, that is the main body of the composition.
32	Are we permitted to write subheadings while writing a composition?	A composition is an entire piece of work, do not break into subheadings, which could very well be in the middle of a paragraph. Make it into one readable piece.