

Name:.....



This Unit will give you the opportunity to achieve:

- Your National 4 AVU
- Your National 4 or National 5 Writing

In your discursive essay you will look at a topic from both sides of the argument. You can choose any topic you like to research and write about.

Choosing a Topic

To help you choose a topic, you could:

1. Ask yourself what subjects you are interested in or care about.
2. Visit the library.
3. Watch the news, read newspapers or access news websites.

Here are some ideas for topics. You should pick something that **interests** you and that has **two sides** to the argument.

- Video Games and their effect on young people
- Social Media
- The Sugar Tax
- Smoking – should it be legal?
- Energy Drinks – should there be an age limit or should they be banned?
- Technology
- Reality TV

What topic have you chosen?

Research

Discursive writing is only convincing when arguments and statements are supported by:

- FACTS
- STATISTICS
- QUOTES
- EXPERIENCES
- ANECDOTES

Choose two texts to use to investigate this topic. Your teacher can help you to find and choose the texts.

What texts have you chosen? Write the website addresses or book title and author here.

Text 1	Text 2

The **purpose** of a text is the reason it was written. Was it written to give information? To persuade the reader? To entertain the reader? Look at your two texts. What is the **purpose** of each text? **Give reasons for your answers**, for example quoting from the texts or explaining in your own words.

Text 1	Text 2

Note Taking

What are the main ideas/information in each text? Try to write your notes **in your own words**.

Text 1	Text 2

Evaluation

To evaluate is to judge how good or how successful something is. You are now going to evaluate your texts. You will evaluate the language used by the writer.

How successful are the texts in their choice of language? You should **quote** examples of effective word choice. Identify the **connotations** of these words. Explain why they are effective.

Text 1	Text 2

AVU Write Up

Create a PowerPoint that summarises your thoughts on the two texts you have read.

Slide One:

Introduction

- The topic I am investigating is...
- The texts I have read are ...
- I am going to evaluate how well the writers use language.

Slide Two:

The main ideas/information in each text

- My first text is about...
- Some interesting facts I learned are...
- My second text is about...
- I learned that...

Slide Three:

Evaluation of each text

- My first text uses words, such as ... This has connotations of...
- My second text uses words, such as ... This has connotations of...
- I prefer... because...

Slide Four:

A conclusion about the topic/texts

- I enjoyed investigating this topic because...

Now, answer these questions:

- Why did you choose this topic?

- Why did you choose these texts?

- What have you learned from your research?

- Would you recommend that others should read these texts?

Planning your Discursive Essay – Writing Assessment for Nat. 4 or Nat. 5

You should take your topic and create a title for your discursive essay. Your title should be either:

- A question
- A statement followed by the word 'Discuss'

For example:

Topic – Social Media

Question Title – *Is social media damaging to young people?*

Statement Title – *Social media is damaging to young people. Discuss.*

You should come up with a Question or Statement Title for your essay now.

Planning your Essay:

Your essay should have **two or three** arguments FOR and **two or three** arguments AGAINST. You should find a piece of evidence to back up each point. Evidence could be:

- FACTS
- STATISTICS
- QUOTES
- EXPERIENCES
- ANECDOTES

On the next page, there is space to **plan** your essay.

Question or Statement Title:

	FOR POINT:	EVIDENCE:
	FOR POINT:	EVIDENCE:
	FOR POINT:	EVIDENCE:
	AGAINST POINT:	EVIDENCE:
	AGAINST POINT:	EVIDENCE:
	AGAINST POINT:	EVIDENCE:

Structuring your ideas:

When you are writing your essay you will write three PEE paragraphs exploring your FOR points and then your three PEE paragraphs AGAINST.

Writing your Discursive Essay: Paragraph Plan

Introduction:

- Start with an interesting fact or statistic you have found out about your topic.
- Explain your topic **briefly** – why do people disagree about it?
- Explain that this essay will explore the arguments for and against.

Example Introduction:

Nowadays, 85% of young people play video games every day. The issue of the effect that video games have on young people is extremely controversial. This essay will explore the arguments for and against video games.

Main Body Paragraphs:

- **Point** – Write a sentence giving your argument
- **Evidence** – Give a quote, fact or statistic to back up your point
- **Explain** – How does the fact or statistic prove your point? *This shows...*

Linking Words:

It is really useful to link your main body paragraphs together using phrases such as:

- **Same line of thought**
 - and, firstly, secondly etc., next, furthermore, likewise, in addition, similarly, also, moreover
- **Conclusion/summary**
 - thus, therefore, consequently, accordingly, in retrospect, hence, in conclusion, in brief, as a result
- **Definite statement**
 - without question, without doubt, unquestionably, absolutely
- **Contrasting idea**
 - yet, on the other hand, nevertheless, however, although, conversely, otherwise, on the contrary
- **Further examples**
- because; for instance; since; for example; so that; despite the fact that; accordingly; although; if; though; unless

Example Main Body Paragraph:

On the other hand, some people believe that footballers do not deserve their high wages because some really average footballers still earn huge salaries. It is stated that “the fans aren’t stupid and they see too many average millionaires”. This shows that many football fans look at players, see the lifestyles they lead and do not think they deserve what they are getting. If a player is not performing at the top of their game, many would ask why they should be paid so much.

Conclusion:

- Signpost that you are starting your conclusion by using a phrase like ‘*In conclusion*’ or ‘*To conclude*’
- Sum up all your arguments **for**
- Sum up all your arguments **against**
- Give your opinion and explain why you believe this

Example Conclusion:

In conclusion, many people believe that social media is damaging to young people. Clearly, many young people spend a lot of their time on social media, and this can affect their progress at school. There are also many young people who have been victims of cyber bullying, which can have a very damaging effect on their self-esteem. However, social media is a great way for people to keep in touch with family and friends who may live far away from them. It is also a good way to meet new friends who have the same interests as you. I believe that social media is a positive thing as long as it is used properly. I think young people should be able to use social media as long as it is monitored by their parents.

Now, check your work for:

- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Paragraphs
- Linking words
- Evidence
- Own words
- Length: 300+ words for National 4 or 500+ words for National 5

Well Done!

You have now completed your AVU and National 4 / National 5 Writing Assessment!