

IELTS Writing Task #2: Discussion Essay

Think, Write, Review

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IELTS Task #2: Goals of Lesson

- Today's lesson will:
 - Review content of an IELTS introduction
 - Identify how long an introduction should be
 - Teach you how to paraphrase effectively
 - Teach you how to write the supporting arguments and thesis statement





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IELTS Task #2: Question Types

- **Opinion** (Agree or Disagree)
 - What is your opinion?
 - Do you agree or disagree?
 - To what extent do you agree or disagree?
 - Direct question
- **Advantages and Disadvantages**
 - Discuss the advantages and disadvantages
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- **Problem and Solution**
 - You will be presented with a problem and need to identify a solution
- **Two-part Question**
 - There will normally be a statement and they will then ask you to answer to separate questions
- **Discussion** (Discuss both views)
 - Discuss both points of view and give your opinion

Discussion Essay: Common Mistakes

- Not stating your opinion.
- Not giving arguments for both views.
- Not developing both sides of the argument equally.

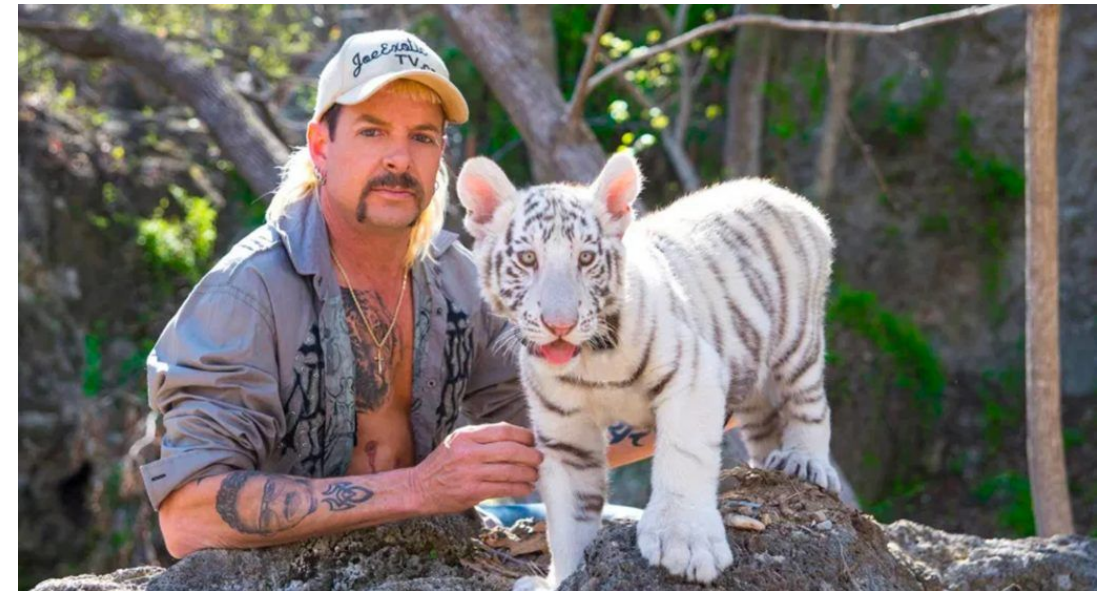
*The key to identifying this type of question is the fact that you are required to discuss **BOTH** views.*



Discussion Essay: Example

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.



Poll

A. Cruel

B. Protect wild animals

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Discussion Essay: Example

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.



Step 1: Analyze the Question

Topic words

Keywords

Instructions

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.



Matching Pairs



The words that define the opinions stated in the statement.

The actual question being asked.

Instructions

The words that identify the general subject of the

Topic words

Keywords

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Step 1: Analyze the Question

Instructions (the actual question being asked)

Topic words (words that identify the general subject of the question)

Some people think that **zoos** are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that **zoos** can be useful in protecting wild animals.

Keywords (words that define the opinions stated in the statement)

Some people think that zoos are **cruel** and **should be closed down**. Others, however, believe that zoos can be **useful in protecting wild animals**.

By highlighting these words, we can see that you are being asked to write about the opposing views that zoos are cruel and should be closed down and that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals. Your essay must only include ideas relevant to these ideas.

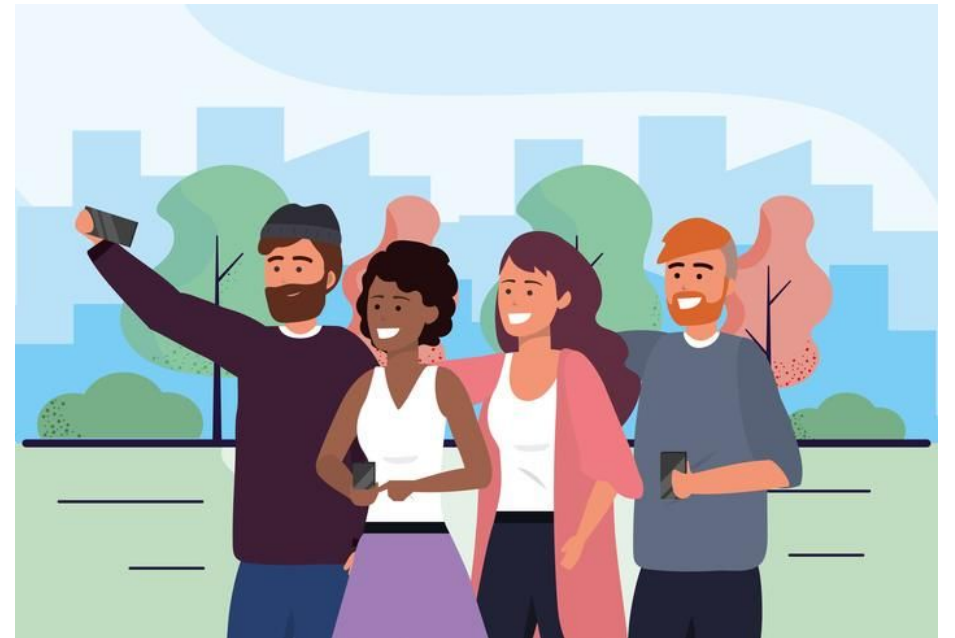
Step 2: Generate Ideas

Friends Technique

Imagine you are chatting with a group of friends and they ask you the question in a casual conversation. What answers would you give them off the top of your head? Plan your essay around these ideas.

Cruel – closed down

Useful – protect wild animals





Collaborate Board

Friends Technique

Are zoo's cruel or useful in protecting wild animals?

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Step 2: Examples from Friends Technique

Cruel – should be closed down:

- Cramped cages – animals distressed
- Unnatural environments
- Most animals not endangered
- Animals become a public spectacle for entertainment

Useful – protect wild animals:

- Research work to learn more about wild animals
- Breeding programmes for endangered species
- Some species saved from extinction
- Seeing wild animals close up inspires people to want to help protect them

Step 3: Vocabulary

In an IELTS essay, it's important to be able to say the same things in different ways, either by paraphrasing and/or using synonyms. During the planning stage, quickly jot down a few **synonyms** for **topic words** and **keywords** you could use to save you having to stop and think of the right language while you're writing.

Time to Brainstorm





Collaborate Board

Vocabulary Brainstorm

Brainstorm additional vocabulary for the words zoo, cruel, protect, and animals.

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Step 3: Vocabulary

Examples

- **zoos** – animals in captivity, collections of wild animals, menagerie, wildlife park
- **cruel** – to cause suffering, inhumane, barbaric, wicked
- **protect** – safeguard, preserve, guard, save
- **animals** – creatures, species, entities

Writing the Introduction

- An introduction achieves three important functions:
 - It shows the examiner that you understand the question.
 - It acts as a guide to the examiner as to what your essay is about.
 - It also helps to keep you focused and on track as you write.
- It should
 - Have 3-4 sentences
 - Be 40-60 words long
 - Take approximately 5 minutes to write

Structure of the Introduction

- Teacher Kathy's Lesson Review
 - Paraphrase the question
 - State supporting reasons
 - Give your opinion (thesis statement)



Paraphrase the Question

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Paraphrasing is simply re-writing a phrase or sentence so that it has the same meaning, but with different words.

- Method #1: Use synonyms
- Method #2: Change the word order
- Method #3: Change the form of the word

Example

- Some people argue that zoos help to preserve wild creatures, while others say that they are inhumane and should be abolished.

Supporting Reasons & Thesis Statement

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Now we need to outline the **supporting reasons** that you'll cover in the rest of the essay (take two ideas from the “friends technique”) along with your **thesis statement**. It is the **thesis statement** that tells the reader your opinion.

Examples

- While the development of breeding programmes contributes to the preservation of endangered species, I believe that the poor conditions that many animals held in captivity are kept in make the existence of zoos unacceptable.

Your Turn



Open Ended Question

Topic: Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others, however, believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

You have five (5) minutes to write the introduction for this question.

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Time to Share

Poll

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Nearpod Answers

Friends Technique

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Vocabulary Brainstorm

<https://collaborative.nearpod.com/reports/328491197/adf949c3b64ce4eca26dee4d376c903d>

References

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