

## **A. Structure**

### 1. Paragraph 1

- Background information
  - To ease the reader into the topic and provide a hint to the stand
  - Can be elaborated on by stating factual observation (what you see in daily life), statistics, news report etc.
- Your stand: adopt one clear stand
- Scope: Give 3 reasons for supporting the stand and follow the order of the reasons when elaborating on them.

### 2. Paragraph 2

- Counterpoint
  - To show that you are less defensive / more objective
- Use statements like "Some may argue that..." to show that the counterpoint is weak as it is supported by a minority
- Then use the connective "However" to show change in direction, leading to your adopted stand
- The rebuttal stand should be effective by being relevant to the counterpart and well-supported
- A counterpoint is weak if it contains flaws in logic / inaccurate assumptions / does not apply to most people / does not apply most of the time
- Don't repeat point / idea
- Rebuttal
  - Chosen Stand

### 3. Paragraph 3

- 1st Supporting Point (SP) + Elaboration (E) + Reiteration (R)
- Supporting Point - should be stated in the topic sentence
- Elaboration - How? Think about the following
  - Explain how / Explain why / Explain the cause & effect / Use analogies / Use anecdotes / State consequences / Compare & contrast / Ask rhetorical questions / Use quotes from reliable sources / Use news reports / Use factual observation / Use data & statistics / State advantage & disadvantage
- Reiteration - Summary of the main ideas in the paragraph

### 4. Paragraph 4

- 2nd SP + E + R

### 5. Paragraph 5

- 3rd SP + E + R

### 6. Paragraph 6

- Summary of 3 SPs & repetition of stand

## **B. Points To Note**

- 1) Adopt 1 consistent stand throughout the essay
- 2) Do not introduce new SP in concluding paragraph
- 3) Adequate elaboration require for ideas to be convincing and have depth
- 4) The counterpoint should be weaker than the rebuttal
- 5) Introduce 2nd and 3rd SPs by using appropriate connectors such as "Furthermore", "Besides" etc.
- 6) Other connectors - To show:
  - a) Addition - Moreover, In addition, Additionally, Also, Apart from that, Coupled with that, And
  - b) Conclusion - Therefore, In conclusion, In a nutshell, Finally, In short, On the whole
  - c) Reinforcement - Surely, Definitely, Indeed, To reiterate, Certainly, Undoubtedly
  - d) Illustration / Example - For example, For instance
  - e) Cause & Effect - Therefore, Thus, Consequently, Hence, Due to, As a result, Since, Because
  - f) Counterpart - Some may argue that, A few may claim that, A minority may assert that
  - g) Rebuttal - Although, Even though, Despite that, However, Yet, On the contrary
  - h) Comparison - Likewise, Similarly, In much the same way
  - i) Contrast (To show some change in direction of argument) - However, Conversely, Unlike, Nevertheless, On the other hand, In spite of this, On the contrary, In contrast, Although, Whereas, But, Yet, Even though
  - j) Words to show possibility / Exception - Likely, Many / Most, May, Tend to, Will, Probably, Usually