

Writing an argument

Aims:

- to plan a piece of argumentative writing
- to revise how to use connectives effectively

What are the ingredients of a good argument?

- A number of views and opinions, both for and against a subject.
- Well structured points progressing in a logical order.
- A convincing and logical approach.
- Language appropriate to the audience (i.e. are you writing to a politician or to a group of teenagers?).
- Use of 'counter argument' ('You could state that However, this is clearly not the case because').
- Tone appropriate for your audience.
- Evidence (this can be made up to support your views).

So, how can I structure my argument effectively?

- Connective words can help you with this.
- Look at the following list and select at least five of them to use in your own piece of argumentative writing.

Firstly

In the first place...

Therefore

In conclusion

Secondly

To conclude

To begin with...

To sum up

In addition

Furthermore

What is more...

...

School uniform – a good idea?

- Firstly, construct a plan. This can take the form of a bullet pointed list or spiderdiagram – whatever suits you best.
- A good way to begin is by jotting down a list of points for and against school uniform.
- Regardless of your own views, remember to take the opposing viewpoint into consideration and mention it. This will demonstrate that you have a broad perspective.

...

In favour of school uniform ...

- Everybody looks the same – smart, tidy.
- You are easy to identify.
- **Now try to think of four more points of your own ...**

Against school uniform ...

- School uniform is dull and the idea is outdated.
- It doesn't allow for any expression of individuality.
- **Now try to think of four more points to add to this list.**

The counter argument

- If your 'for' argument is 'Everyone looks the same', then what might your counter argument be?

It doesn't allow for any individuality or self-expression

Below are some 'for' uniform points. Your job is to create the counter argument for each one

- School uniform allows pupils to represent their school and community.
- It is useful when on a school outing or trip as it allows students to be easily identified.
- School uniform keeps students looking smart.
- There is no peer pressure to have the latest fashions.
- Uniform saves your other clothes.

So ... over to you

- Now that you have thought of a number of arguments for and against, and have an idea of how to create a counter argument, you are ready to write your response.
- Remember to use those connectives.

*Good
luck!*

