

METHODOLOGY

I. Organising your thoughts

INTRODUCTION

First / Firstly / First of all: *tout d'abord*

To begin / to start with: *pour commencer*

First and foremost: *tout d'abord, en premier lieu*

DEVELOPMENT

Secondly, thirdly

Then: *ensuite*

At first sight: *à première vue*

As a matter of fact / In fact: *en fait*

On second thoughts: *à la réflexion*

Actually: *effectivement, vraiment, en fait*

In this respect: *à cet égard*

To some extent: *dans une certaine mesure*

As far as ... is concerned: *en ce qui concerne...*

(ex. as far as Rhett is concerned)

From a ... point of view: *d'un point de vue...*

(ex. from a political point a view)

ADDING AN ARGUMENT / AN EXAMPLE

Besides: *d'ailleurs*

Furthermore / Moreover / What is more: *de plus*

On top of that: *de plus*

Similarly: *de même*

In other words: *en d'autres termes*

That is to say: *c'est-à-dire*

For example / For instance: *par exemple*

..., such as: *tel que, comme*

On the one hand ... on the other hand:

d'une part... d'autre part

OPPOSITION

Instead of (+N/V-ing): *au lieu de*

Yet / However / Nevertheless /

Notwithstanding: *néanmoins*

Whereas: *tandis, alors que*

Contrary to / Unlike (+N/V-ing): *contrairement à*

On the contrary: *au contraire*

CAUSE / CONSEQUENCE

Because of: *en raison de*

Thanks to: *grâce à*

Given that: *étant donné que*

Since: *puisque*

This is because: *c'est parce que*

This is the reason why / That is why: *c'est*

pourquoi

As a consequence / Therefore: *en conséquence*

CONCLUSION

To conclude / In conclusion: *en conclusion*

To sum up / In a nutshell: *pour résumer*

On the whole / Generally / Overall:

dans l'ensemble

GIVING YOUR OPINION

In my opinion / To my mind: *selon moi*

It makes me think of / It reminds me of: *cela me fait penser à*

I am convinced that: *je suis convaincu que*

Personally, I think / I believe...

I strongly believe that...: *je suis persuadé que*

It seems to me that...: *il me semble que*

I agree with (this argument) / I don't agree with / I disagree with: *je suis d'accord / je ne suis pas d'accord avec....(NB. use "to agree", not "to be agree"*

To be honest / Frankly

II. Writing an argumentative essay

1) Structure

a. The **introduction** which is composed of three parts:

1. A catchphrase (general statement/quote/reference to a document studied in class)
2. Your key question (insert the essay question in a non-artificial way)
3. Your outline (very briefly explain what you intend to prove and how you plan to do so)

E.g. It is often said that That is why one may wonder if/when/what..... To answer this question, I will first deal with, and then I will discuss the problem of/ I will weigh the pros and cons of....

b. The **development**:

1. Make two or three paragraphs
2. Illustrate each point with a precise example
3. Avoid self-contradiction and confusion (“yes but no but maybe”)

c. The **conclusion** which is also composed of three parts:

1. A summary of your 2 or 3 main points
2. Your final answer to the essay question
3. An opening statement

2) Writing conventions

- a. Use the pronoun “I” (and not “we” which is very awkward in English)
- b. Start each paragraph with a link word

3) Marking scheme

- a. Content (have you answered the question convincingly in a personal or knowledgeable way?)
- b. Structure (have you respected the structure above and expressed your ideas clearly?)
- c. Correction (have you only made few and minor mistakes?)
- d. Range (have you used a great variety of vocabulary and grammar forms?)

III. Commenting on a picture

A commentary involves four steps:

- 1) **Introducing the document** (type / source / author / date and historical, political or artistic context...)

This document is **entitled...** / It **dates back to...** / It **deals with...** / It **comes from...** / It **was published in/on...**

a photograph, drawing, painting, poster, advert, book/magazine cover, map, diagram, table/grid, cartoon, still (image tirée d'un film), **pie chart, video report**

a photographer, artist, painter, adman, cartoonist, designer, creator, cameraman, journalist/reporter

- 2) **Describing the document** (elements, layout, colours...)

The document **shows...**, there is a **contrast between...**, the **focus of attention** is..., it is **composed of...**, it **consists of + N...**, it **illustrates...**

in the foreground (premier plan)/ **at** the front, **in** the middle, **in** the background (arrière-plan)/ **at** the back, **on** the left/right, **at** the top/bottom, **in** the lower/upper part, **in** the bottom right-hand corner, **in** the top left-hand corner

a portrait, a landscape, a seascape

cool/warm colours, **soft/bright** colours, **black and white, sepia**

a slogan, catchphrase, caption (*légende*), **bubble/balloon, box, pun**

- 3) **Analysing the purpose** (message, author's intentions, means and tools used)

It is aimed at + N/V-ing

We can **infer / guess / conclude** that . . .

The problem/issue **illustrated here** is...

What the artists wants **to point out / suggest / symbolize** is. . .

The photographer **highlights / shows / criticizes** the fact that. .

The **goal** of the cartoonist is to **inform us about/ sensitize us to / make fun of ...**

- 4) **Giving your personal opinion** (impressions, reactions)

In my opinion. . . / to my mind / personally

I agree/disagree with...

I find it **funny / strange / (un)convincing / beautiful / alarming / shocking / irritating. . .**

It **reminds me of / It inspires me to think about / It makes me aware of...**