

Linking words and phrases

INTRODUCTION	
Catchphrase	Introducing your general statement: - For some time now, ... has been at the core of heated debates. - Few topics have been more controversial / widely discussed than that of ... - For a long time now, the issue of ... has hit the headlines / has been at the centre of a controversy. - Of all the topics to capture the popular imagination these past few decades, few / none can rival that of ... - It is often believed / argued / claimed that ... - Never has there been a subject that has aroused as much discussion as ... Introducing your supporting evidence: - For instance, / as evidenced by ..., / to illustrate this point, ...
Key question	Introducing your key question: - Thus, the question is: ... ? ... which is why it is well worth wondering: + direct question? OR ... which is why it is well worth wondering whether + indirect question. - Hence, I wonder: + direct question? OR Hence, I wonder whether + indirect question. Phrasing your (direct) key question: - To what extent does / is / can ... ? / How does / is / can ... ? - What factors can account for ... ? / What factors have led to ... ?
Outline	- After analysing ..., I will highlight ... and finally I will focus on ... - Several reasons may account for this:, ... and ... have become new challenges.
DEVELOPMENT	
Asserting an idea	- In examining the number of ... , I am struck by - When looking at some hard facts, it clearly appears that... - I cannot help but think that ... - One of the main reasons why/for .. is ... - The most important argument to put forward is ...
Changing paragraphs	- Furthermore, / besides, ... - Turning from ... arguments to more practical ones, I am at once struck by ... / Besides ... reasons, practical issues must be taken into account too.
Introducing a counter-argument	- A balanced view, however, cannot ignore/ disregard / overlook the fact that ... - Yet, / Nevertheless, I cannot fail to notice ... - Yet, / Nevertheless, this process calls into question ... - Yet, / Nevertheless, claiming that ... might be considered a one-sided/ biased opinion. - That being said, it must be admitted that ... - A balanced view of the topic, however, would imply ... - Whether it is ... or ..., it is, however, undeniable that ... - However true/undeniable this is, ... should also be taken into account. - On the other hand, it might be argued / contended that ...
CONCLUSION	
TO CONCLUDE, / IN CONCLUSION, ... - Ultimately though, it can be asserted that ... - Thus, however much momentum the issue of ... / the idea that ... has acquired, it seems ... - So, it seems difficult to draw the line between ... - It would therefore appear that ...	