



ENGLISH FOR UNIVERSITY. COM

English language preparation and support for international students at university and college

How to write an introduction to your academic essay

Version 1.3

Academic English material from *English for University. Com*

Example introduction

Essay title:

“The 2012 Olympic Games will be an expensive waste of time and effort.” How far do you agree with this statement?

Introduction:

Arguments continue to rage over the value, the cost and the impact of the Olympic Games currently being planned for London in 2012. The latest cost of the Games has been put at nearly £10 billion, four times its original estimate and this huge bill has ensured that the topic of the Olympic Games appears frequently on the front pages of our newspapers. However, this news coverage is not always based on reliable information, something which can be difficult to obtain when dealing with a controversial and political issue. This essay seeks to examine the positive and negative effects of the Olympic Games on London and the world by investigating the main issues of cost, urban regeneration and the role of sport in young people's lives. The arguments in favour of the Games are put forward first, followed by arguments exploring the drawbacks of the Olympics.

The structure of the introduction

The example introduction can be divided into the following sections:

Part one: Introducing the topic and saying why it is important	Arguments continue to rage over the value, the cost and the impact of the Olympic Games currently being planned for London in 2012. The latest cost of the games has been put at nearly £10 billion, four times its original estimate and this huge bill has ensured that the topic of the Olympic Games appears frequently on the front pages of our newspapers.
Part two: Saying what is difficult about answering the question	However, this news coverage is not always based on reliable information, something which can be difficult to obtain when dealing with a controversial and political issue.
Part three: Giving the focus of the essay	This essay seeks to examine the positive and negative effects of the Olympic Games on London and the world by investigating the main issues of cost, urban regeneration and the role of sport in young people's lives.
Part four: Giving an outline of the essay structure	The arguments in favour of the Games are put forward first, followed by arguments exploring the drawbacks of the Olympics.

Phrases for introductions

<p>Part one: Introducing the topic and saying why it is important</p>	<p><i>Arguments continue to rage over ...</i></p> <p><i>... must count as one of the most controversial issues of our times.</i></p> <p><i>There is growing concern over the issue of ... which is seldom out of the news these days.</i></p> <p><i>The recent rise in ... has led to renewed interest in the issue of ...</i></p> <p><i>Recent research has found that ... and this has led to a surge of interest in ...</i></p> <p><i>...is frequently on the front pages of our newspapers.</i></p> <p><i>...is very much a cause for concern for young people/adults/students/teachers.</i></p>
<p>Part two: Saying what is difficult about answering the question</p>	<p><i>It can be difficult to obtain reliable information on ...</i></p> <p><i>...can be a difficult topic to explore because ...</i></p> <p><i>One of the main difficulties of discussing ... is ...</i></p>
<p>Part three: Giving the focus of the essay</p>	<p><i>This piece of work/essay seeks to examine/explore ... by focusing on ...</i></p> <p><i>This question will be answered by looking at ...</i></p> <p><i>The approach taken in this piece of work is to This essay critically examines/investigates/discusses...</i></p>
<p>Part four: Giving an outline of the essay structure</p>	<p><i>...are put forward first, followed by...</i></p> <p><i>This piece of work is divided into four main parts. Firstly, ... Secondly, ...</i></p> <p><i>This essay starts with ... and then continues with ...</i></p> <p><i>First of all the advantages of ... will be discussed followed by a look at the disadvantages.</i></p> <p><i>My conclusion will summarise up the arguments for and against ...</i></p>