



Writing an Argument Essay

Argument essays require you to examine both sides of a situation and to conclude by saying which side you favour.

1. Analyse Components of an Essay Question

Traffic congestion in large cities increasingly causes delays for the public and costs businesses huge amounts of money in loss of productivity. Some people suggest **a ban on private vehicles** in **city centres** could improve matters. **Discuss.**

topic what is the question about?

focus what is the specific aspect of the topic?

restriction how is the question limited?

instruction word what exactly do you need to do?

2. Brainstorm opinions

- a) **YOUR OPINION** is **central** to your essay. You must have a position [for or against].
- b) **Your position** will show that you have **researched the topic well** and that you have a **good understanding of the issue from both sides of the argument**. This research will, therefore, allow you to make **good points** that will show **DEPTH of understanding!!**
- c) You need to make your position clear and then **support it** with **references** (research / evidence / examples).



Essay Structure

Introduction

1. Background Information
2. Definition of terms
3. Thesis statement – state your position - For or Against?
4. Essay Organization – For **and** Against

Body

Arguments **for** the essay topic

- 1- idea - expand and support
- 2- idea - expand and support
- 3- idea - expand and support

Arguments **against** the issue

- 1- idea - expand and support
- 2- idea - expand and support
- 3- idea - expand and support

Your position:
State which side you support (For? or Against?) and WHY!

- There should **be a balance between the two sides** in terms of number of points but not necessarily in terms of the strength of the arguments.

Conclusion

1. Restate your position.
2. Review your main points 'for' and your main points 'against'

At the end of the essay on a new page, list all the books, articles and other materials you have **referred to within** the essay. Most of AUT uses APA style of referencing.



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Background

The increase in the number of vehicles (defined as private vehicles and motor cycles) in city centres brings with it a number of problems. Many cities around the world are attempting to address the increasing traffic problems through regulation and some governments have even enforced a ban on motor vehicles from city centres. This essay will argue that a ban of this type is necessary as a solution to this problem. This essay will also consider three broad areas in support of the ban such as environmental reasons, congestion and public transport systems and will explore arguments against the ban such as inconvenience, effect on business and emergencies.

Definition

Thesis

Essay organisation

Topic

A motor vehicle ban in city centres would have a significant impact on the environment by reducing the amount of gas emissions in the air and water as well as reducing the level of noise pollution. The effect of gas emissions on people's health is well documented. Noise pollution also has a negative effect of a person's health and research shows that it can increase a person's stress levels as well as their ability to concentrate (Jones, 2012).

Expand

Support / Reference

Congestion, caused by traffic jams, has a detrimental effect on many aspects of people's working lives and this could be alleviated by banning motor vehicles in city centres. Tardiness due to traffic delays is one of the most common reasons given for being late for work, according to Taylor (2011). Her research also shows that managers identified arriving late for work and appointments were major factors in not promoting staff. With less congestion on the roads, public transport could flow better, increasing the change of people arriving at work on time.

On the other hand, a ban on motor vehicles in city centres is often opposed because people feel that it would be an inconvenience in that they would have to depend on public transport whether it was efficient or not (McKenzie, 2006). An added concern is that private vehicles and motorbikes are vehicles which are often used for business purposes and can be used in emergencies. If these were to be included then business activity could be restricted and there could be a possible threat to health and safety (Hodge, 2006).

Comparing all points for and against a motor vehicle ban in city centres it is important to note that although it would alter people's behaviour and cause initial inconvenience it would result in much less congested and polluted city centres. Provided certain reasons for motor vehicle use (business and emergency services) were excluded from the ban and the public transport system was greatly improved, a ban would be successful.

Restate your position

In conclusion, the banning of motor vehicles in a city centre is necessary in order to make the city environment cleaner and more easily accessible. This ban would not only reduce pollution, but also reduce congestion. An improved public transport system would ensure the success of the ban.

Review and restate position

(Word count 500)



Practice: For and Against Essay

Analyse the following question:

Regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) is a necessary requirement of modern society. Discuss.

- topic** what is the question about?
- focus** what is the specific aspect of the topic?
- restriction** how is the question limited?
- instruction word** what exactly do you need to do?

Introduction:

1. Background	
2. Definition	
3. Thesis	
4. Organisation	



Order the example sentences below [a-e] and **match** them to the correct sections of the introduction:

- a. ___ This essay will also consider arguments against control of AI such as damage from poor regulation, economic harm and the negative influence on creativity.
- b. ___ Artificial intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems and technologies able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence.
- c. ___ This essay will argue that control of artificial intelligence is necessary for the protection of society
- d. ___ ... and will discuss arguments for control in terms of interests of society, potential harm and threats to employment.
- e. ___ Societies have always been influenced by changes in human thinking and the product of that thought. It is recognised that some technologies can have profound effects on life; therefore society has a duty to consider the benefits and drawbacks of such technologies.



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Introduction

Background	Societies have always been influenced by changes in human thinking and the product of that thought. It is recognised that some technologies can have profound effects on life; therefore society has a duty to consider the benefits and drawbacks of such technologies.
Definition	Artificial intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems and technologies able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence.
Thesis	This essay will argue that control of artificial intelligence is necessary for the protection of society and will discuss arguments for control in terms of interests of society, potential harm and threats to employment.
Essay Organisation (for)	
Essay Organisation (against)	This essay will also consider arguments against control of AI such as damage from poor regulation, economic harm and the negative influence on creativity.

Plan your ideas for this essay

Regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) is a necessary requirement of modern society. Discuss

In the **paragraphs** in the '**Body**' of your essay you could follow a **TES** structure:

T Clearly state your **Topic**

E You need to then **expand** by giving more information – what you mean by this topic

S Then **support** your point with examples = evidence from research

Body paragraph 1: Arguments **FOR** Control of AI

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Body paragraph 2: Arguments **AGAINST** Control of AI

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Body paragraph 3: Your position (state which side you support and why?)

Academic Word List (AWL)

The Academic Word List (AWL) list contains 570 word families which were selected because they appear with great frequency in a broad range of academic texts.

Learning these words will help with reading academic texts, understanding lectures, academic writing for assignments and speaking in an academic setting.

Sublist 1

sector • available • financial • process • individual • specific • principle • estimate • variables • method • data • research • contract • environment • export • source • assessment • policy • identified • create • derived • factors • procedure • definition • assume • theory • benefit • evidence • established • authority • major • issues • labour • occur • economic • involved • percent • interpretation • consistent • income • structure • legal • concept • formula • section • required • constitutional • analysis • distribution • function • area • approach • role • legislation • indicate • response • period • context • significant • similar •

Sublist 2

community • resident • range • construction • strategies • elements • previous • conclusion • security • aspects • acquisition • features • text • commission • regulations • computer • items • consumer • achieve • final • positive • evaluation • assistance • normal • relevant • distinction • region • traditional • impact • consequences • chapter • equation • appropriate • resources • participation • survey • potential • cultural • transfer • select • credit • affect • categories • perceived • sought • focus • purchase • injury • site • journal • primary • complex • institute • investment • administration • maintenance • design • obtained • restricted • conduct •

Sublist 3

comments • convention • published • framework • implies • negative • dominant • illustrated • outcomes • constant • shift • deduction • ensure • specified • justification • funds • reliance • physical • partnership • location • link • coordination • alternative • initial • validity • task • techniques • excluded • consent • proportion • demonstrate • reaction • criteria • minorities • technology • philosophy • removed • sex • compensation • sequence • corresponding • maximum • circumstances • instance • considerable • sufficient • corporate • interaction • contribution • immigration • component • constraints • technical • emphasis • scheme • layer • volume • document • registered • core •

Sublist 4

overall • emerged • regime • implementation • project • hence • occupational • internal • goals • retained • sum • integration • mechanism • parallel • imposed • despite • job • parameters • approximate • label • concentration • principal • series • predicted • summary • attitudes • undertaken • cycle • communication • ethnic • hypothesis • professional • status • conference • attributed • annual • obvious • error • implications • apparent • commitment • subsequent • debate • dimensions • promote • statistics • option • domestic • output • access • code • investigation • phase • prior • granted • stress • civil • contrast • resolution • adequate •

Sublist 5

alter • stability • energy • aware • licence • enforcement • draft • styles • precise • medical • pursue • symbolic • marginal • capacity • generation • exposure • decline • academic • modified • external • psychology • fundamental • adjustment • ratio • whereas • enable • version • perspective • contact • network • facilitate • welfare • transition • amendment • logic • rejected • expansion • clause • prime • target • objective • sustainable • equivalent • liberal • notion • substitution • generated • trend • revenue • compounds • evolution • conflict • image • discretion • entities • orientation • consultation • mental • monitoring • challenge •

Sublist 6

intelligence • transformation • presumption • acknowledged • utility • furthermore • accurate • diversity • attached • recovery • assigned • tapes • motivation • bond • edition • nevertheless • transport • cited • fees • scope • enhanced • incorporated • instructions • subsidiary • input • abstract • ministry • capable • expert • preceding • display • incentive • inhibition • trace • ignored • incidence • estate • cooperative • revealed • index • lecture • discrimination • overseas • explicit • aggregate • gender • underlying • brief • domain • rational • minimum • interval • neutral • migration • flexibility • federal • author • initiatives • allocation • exceed •

Sublist 7

intervention • confirmed • definite • classical • chemical • voluntary • release • visible • finite • publication • channel • file • thesis • equipment • disposal • solely • deny • identical • submitted • grade • phenomenon • paradigm • ultimately • extract • survive • converted • transmission • global • inferred • guarantee • advocate • dynamic • simulation • topic • insert • reverse • decades • comprise • hierarchical • unique • comprehensive • couple • mode • differentiation • eliminate • priority • empirical • ideology • somewhat • aid • foundation • adults • adaptation • quotation • contrary • media • successive • innovation • prohibited • isolated •

Sublist 8

highlighted • eventually • inspection • termination • displacement • arbitrary • reinforced • denote • offset • exploitation • detected • abandon • random • revision • virtually • uniform • predominantly • thereby • implicit • tension • ambiguous • vehicle • clarity • conformity • contemporary • automatically • accumulation • appendix • widespread • infrastructure • deviation • fluctuations • restore • guidelines • commodity • minimises • practitioners • radical • plus • visual • chart • appreciation • prospect • dramatic • contradiction • currency • inevitably • complement • accompany • paragraph • induced • schedule • intensity • crucial • via • exhibit • bias • manipulation • theme • nuclear •

Sublist 9

bulk • behalf • unified • commenced • erosion • anticipated • minimal • ceases • vision • mutual • norms • intermediate • manual • supplementary • incompatible • concurrent • ethical • preliminary • integral • conversely • relaxed • confined • accommodation • temporary • distorted • passive • subordinate • analogous • military • scenario • revolution • diminished • coherence • suspended • mature • assurance • rigid • controversy • sphere • mediation • format • trigger • qualitative • portion • medium • coincide • violation • device • insights • refine • devoted • team • overlap • attained • restraints • inherent • route • protocol • founded • duration •

Sublist 10

whereby • inclination • encountered • convinced • assembly • albeit • enormous • reluctant • posed • persistent • undergo • notwithstanding • straightforward • panel • odd • intrinsic • compiled • adjacent • integrity • forthcoming • conceived • ongoing • so-called • likewise • nonetheless • levy • invoked • colleagues • depression • collapse •



Academic English Skills

Learning the words in the academic word list

1. Start with Sublist 1. If these words are known, move on to Sublist 2 down to Sublist 10.
2. Don't start with the headwords starting with the letter 'A' and work down the list, but choose words that do not look like each other and are not related in meaning.
3. Check the list for words you find in texts. If the words are in the AWL, you should learn them. If they are not in the list, then think carefully about whether or not you need to learn them.
4. Go online and do some of the exercises/games/quizzes from the following websites:

Exam English

https://www.examenglish.com/vocabulary/academic_wordlist.html

RMIT University

<https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/content/academic-word-list-tool>

English Vocabulary Exercises

<http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/AWL/id21.htm>

UEFAP

<http://www.uefap.com/vocab/exercise/exercise.htm>

<http://www.uefap.com/vocab/select/awl.htm>

Oxford Academic Vocabulary Practice

<https://elt.oup.com/student/academicvocabulary/ui/?cc=global&sellLanguage=en>

Oxford Learner Dictionary

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/wordlist/academic/academic/>

<https://www.konan-u.ac.jp/hp/mach/awl/index.html>