

GENERAL ESSAY PHRASES

A. Introductory remarks.

- It is generally agreed today that...
- In approaching this issue, one should...
- Nowadays, it is scarcely possible to...
- The business world offers us numerous examples of...
- In order to decide whether...or not

B. Developing the argument

- The first aspect to point out is that...
- Let us start by considering the facts.

C. The other side of the argument

- It would also be interesting to see...
- One should, nevertheless, consider the problem from another angle.
- Equally relevant to the issue are the questions of...

D. Balancing views

- One should always remember that...
- One should, however, not forget that...
- We could perhaps go further and ask ourselves whether...

E. Conclusion

- The arguments we have presented... suggest that.../ prove that.../ would indicate that...
- From these arguments one must.../ could.../ might... conclude that...
- All of this points to the conclusion that...

Summing up or concluding

After all:

All in all:

All things considered:

As has been noted:

As I have said:

As I have shown:

Altogether:

As a final point:

By and large:

In brief:

In short:

In conclusion:

In any case:

At any rate:

In any event:

In the end:

In the final analysis:

In the long run:

On balance:
On the whole:
Overall:
Therefore:
To conclude:
To summarize/In summary:
To sum up briefly/to put it briefly

F. Ordering elements

- Firstly,.../ Secondly,.../ Finally,... (note the comma after all these introductory words.)
- If on the one hand it can be said that... the same is not true for...
- The first argument suggests that... whilst the second suggests that...

Writing in lists/sequential information

First/second/third/last/lastly:

First of all:

In the first place/At first:

Another:

Yet another:

Last but not least:

To begin with:

In the second place:

Additionally:

Also:

Next:

Then:

And to conclude:

Finally:

Afterward:

At the same time:

Earlier:

For now:

For the time being:

In time:

In turn:

Later:

Later on:

Meanwhile:

In the meantime:

To begin with:

Right after:

Simultaneously:

Soon after:

Time order

-Earlier:

Former:

In retrospect:
Not long ago:
Preceding:
Prior to:
Recently:
-By now:
Currently:
Right away:
Until now:
-Henceforth
Hereafter

G. Adding elements

- Furthermore, one should not forget that...
- In addition to...
- Moreover...
- -Building on from the idea that ... (mention previous idea), this ...illustrates that ... (introduce your new idea).
- -Another line of thought on ... (your topic or your previous idea) demonstrates that ... (introduce your new idea)

Adding more to a point already made

Above all:
As well (as):
Alternatively:
Apart from:
Again:
As for:
As to:
Besides:
Coupled with:
Equally important:
Either, neither...nor:
Following this further
Further:
Furthermore:
In addition:
In the same way:
Indeed:
In fact:
In reality:
It is found that:
Likewise:
Moreover:
Not to mention
Not only...but also:
Really:

Regarding:
Similarly:
What is more:
With respect to:

H. Accepting other points of view

- Nevertheless, one should accept that...
- However, we also agree that...

I. Personal opinion

- We personally believe that...
- Our own point of view is that...
- I firmly believe that
- I feel something should be done about that
- In my experience
- As far as I am concerned

Lack of interest

I find ... rather uninteresting / boring
I don't take any interest in
It's all the same to me whether

J. Others' opinions

- Experts...
- ... believe that
... say that
... suggest that
... are convinced that
... point out that
... emphasise that
- According to some experts...
- They claim that...since...
 - Opponents of this idea claim/maintain that...
 - Those who disagree/ are against these ideas may say/ assert that...
 - Some people may disagree with this idea,
 - Some people may say that...however...

Useful phrases to introduce quotations

According to:
As X stated/wrote/argued/discussed/expressed the concern:
Referring to..., X argues that:
To quote from:
X tells/shows us that:

K. Introducing examples

- Take for example...
- To illustrate this point one need only refer to...

Introducing examples

An example of this is/As an example:

An analogy:

Analogous to:

As follows:

As in the following examples:

As an illustration:

Chiefly:

Especially:

For example, for instance:

Including:

Illustrated with:

In this case:

In another case:

In this situation:

In particular:

In order to clarify:

In the following manner:

Mainly:

Mostly:

Markedly:

Namely:

Notably:

On this occasion:

Particularly:

Such as:

Specifically:

That is to say:

Take the case of:

To bring to light:

To demonstrate:

To illustrate this point/issue/topic/concern:

***Etcetera, and so on, and so forth**

***Modifying adverbs: totally / entirely / completely mostly / mainly / chiefly partly comparatively / relatively extremely / incredibly**

L. Introducing facts

- It is... true that.../ clear that.../ noticeable that...
- One should note here that...

M. Saying what you think is true

- This leads us to believe that...
- It is very possible that...
- In view of these facts, it is quite likely that...

N. Certainty

- Doubtless,...
- One cannot deny that...
- It is (very) clear from these observations that...
- I have every reason to believe that

To generalize information and facts

As a rule

As usual

As a matter of fact:

For the most part

Generally

Generally speaking

In many ways

In all respects

In most/many cases

On the whole

Ordinarily

To some extent

Usually

O. Doubt

- All the same, it is possible that...
- It is difficult to believe that...

P. Accepting other points to certain degree

- The decision was a good one. Nonetheless,...
- One can agree up to a certain point with...
- Certainly,... However,...
- It cannot be denied that...

Q. Emphasising particular points

- The last example highlights that fact that...
- Not only... but also...
- We would even go so far as to say that...
- I'd like to point out that
- I'd like to emphasize

Emphasize or intensify

The main problem:

The major reason:

Of great concern:

Of major concern:

Returning to emphasise your earlier viewpoint

After all:

Although ...may have a good point

At the same time:

All the same:

Despite:
Even if ... is true:
However:
In spite of:
While...may be true:

Referring to
With reference to
Regarding
As regards
As far as ... is concerned
According to

Making exceptions
Apart from
With the exception of

R. Moderating, agreeing, disagreeing

- By and large...
- Perhaps we should also point out the fact that...
- It would be unfair not to mention that fact that...
- One must admit that...
- We cannot ignore the fact that...
- One cannot possibly accept the fact that...
- However, another angle on this debate suggests that ... (introduce your contrasting idea)
- I entirely / absolutely agree with
- That's exactly my own view
- I partly disagree with
- I don't entirely agree with
- I agree in principle, but
- I see things rather differently myself

S. Consequences

- From these facts, one may conclude that...
- That is why, in our opinion, ...
- Which seems to confirm the idea that...
- Thus,.../ Therefore,...

Showing the results of something

As a result:
Accordingly
Because of this:
Consequently
Due to:
For this reason

For this purpose
Hence
It can be seen that:
Is evident that:
In effect:
It follows that:
In other words:
Otherwise:
Owing to:
Subsequently
The result is:
The consequence is:
The outcome:
This suggests that:
Therefore
Thereafter:
Thus
Thereupon
We can see:

T. Comparison

- Some experts suggest..., whereas others...
- Compared to...
- On the one hand there is the firm belief that... On the other hand, many people are convinced that...
- To draw/make a comparison between... and

Introducing an alternative viewpoint

Another way of viewing this is:
Alternatively:
Again:
Another possibility is:
Although:
By contrast/By way of contrast:
In comparison:
In fact:
One alternative is:
On one hand:
On the other hand:
On the contrary:
Though:

To compare and contrast

By the same token:
Conversely:
Equally:

In a like manner:

Instead:

Nevertheless/Nonetheless:

Still:

Up to a point:

Whereas

While:

Yet:

U. Refuting opposing idea

- Compromise but prove their argument is not powerful enough:
- They have a point in thinking like that.
- To a certain extent they are right.
 - Completely disagree:
- After seeing this evidence, there is no way we can agree with this idea.
 - Say that their argument is irrelevant to the topic:
- Their argument is irrelevant to the topic.

V. Same idea

Putting the same idea in a different way

Above all:

Better:

In other words:

In that case:

In view of this:

Rather:

That is to say

To look at this another way:

To put it simply:

So to speak:

To put it in another way:

Under certain circumstances:

Up to a point:

With this in mind:

PHRASES FOR BALANCED ARGUMENTS

INTRODUCTION

- It is often said that...
- It is undeniable that...
- It is a well-known fact that...
- For the great majority of people...
- We live in a world in which...
- A number of key issues arise from the statement. For one...
- One of the most striking features of this problem is...
- First of all, let us try to understand...
- The public in general tend to believe that...

THESIS

- The first thing that needs to be said is...
- One argument in support of...
- We must distinguish carefully between...
- The second reason for...
- An important aspect of the problem is...
- It is worth stating at this point that...

ANTITHESIS

- On the other hand, we can observe that...
- The other side of the coin is, however, that...
- Another way of looking at this question is to...

SYNTHESIS

- The fact of the matter is surely that...
- The truth of the matter is simply that...
- On balance, we can safely say that...
- On reflection, it seems more accurate to say that...
- If one weighs the pros and the cons of the case, one soon realises that...
- In the final analysis...

CONCLUSION

- What conclusions can be drawn from all this?
- The most satisfactory conclusion that we can come to is...
- To sum up... we are convinced that.../ ...we believe that.../ ...we have to accept that...

FINAL NOTES

1. Overuse of "very."

Be careful not to overuse the word "very." You may be penalised for exaggerating a point in your

essay, so use this word sparingly to qualify another adjective or adverb.

2. The word "thing"

Avoid this word as much as possible and replace it as often as possible with the name of whatever you are referring to.

Examples:

x One thing that needs to be said...

-> One point that needs to be made...

x Many things can be said against trade unions.

-> One can criticise trade unions for the fact that...