

Suggested Reading

The below links are some suggestions for reading. These articles might help you form your opinion, or back up an opinion you already have.

You do not need to limit yourself to these articles. If you want to read more around your topic, feel free.

Note of Caution: Bias

Before you quote an article, check that it is from a good source. This means that it should be published by a good company. The BBC is a good place to start because they report an unbiased (or neutral) opinion.

When deciding whether an opinion is biased, think about who the company is and why they might benefit from the opinion they present. For example, the police would be more inclined to be in favour of using Stop and Search because it helps them to do their job. Therefore, an article written by a police officer is likely to be biased in this way.

A biased opinion is not an invalid opinion and can be included, but you should consider this when deciding whether to agree with that opinion or not.

Some of the below links will be from biased sources. Before you read the article, always consider whether the source will be biased or not.

- 1) **Social Media:** If you ran a social media company, do you think you should be responsible for what is posted on your platform? If not, who do you think should be accountable?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47019912>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5m1tdVN5pYA>

<https://www.socialmediatoday.com/news/instagram-adds-new-anti-bullying-measures-including-bulk-comment-actions-a/577806/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52245992>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52632909>

- 2) **Stop and Search:** If you were the head of the police, what do you see as the risks for using Stop and Search and whose rights should the police be protecting?

<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-06-04/police-must-listen-to-concerns-as-uk-protests-continue-over-george-floyd-death/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-50686275/stop-and-search-the-controversial-police-power>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-49370673/stop-and-search-what-are-your-rights>

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-the-law/policing/stop-and-search/latest>

<https://www.gov.uk/police-powers-to-stop-and-search-your-rights>

<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/fundamental/stop-and-search/>

- 3) **Coronavirus Tracing App:** If you were leading the government would you be justified in requiring people to use a surveillance and monitoring app, such as the Coronavirus Track and Trace App, if those apps ultimately benefit the community as a whole?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52393115>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52442754>

<https://www.nhs.uk/blogs/digital-contact-tracing-protecting-nhs-and-saving-lives/>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/nhs-covid-19-app-explainer>

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/nhs-contact-tracing-app-data-privacy>

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2020/03/statement-in-response-to-the-use-of-mobile-phone-tracking-data-to-help-during-the-coronavirus-crisis/>

Essay Structure Tips

An essay usually consists of three main parts: **introduction**, **body**, and **conclusion**.
Following this format will help you write and organise your essay.

1. Introduction

The introduction guides your reader into the essay, by introducing the topic you are writing about. It should be written in a way that grabs the reader's attention and encourages him/her to continue reading your essay. It should begin with a "hook" that catches the reader's interest, such as a quote, an analogy or a question.

After getting the reader's attention, you should introduce your topic and give some background information on it. When writing this, imagine that your reader has never heard of the topic before and give a general overview of what you are going to write about in your essay.

It is then helpful to tell the reader how you are going to structure your essay, and which points you will explore. This will serve as a "roadmap" to the reader, who can then follow your argument easily.

The introduction comes to an end with a concise outline of your argument. Here, you can clearly state your position on the topic.

Typically, an introduction is no longer than one paragraph (approximately 150 words).

Top Tip: This may sound unusual, but it is often helpful to write the introduction to your essay at the end (after you have written your conclusion). You frequently develop more ideas as you write and the introduction is often more concise after the main body and conclusion are already there.

2. Body

The body is the longest part of your essay (approximately 250 words), where you can outline your main points to the reader.

For example, if you had three main topics that support your argument, then the structure of the body would like this:

Topic 1 (Include heading as appropriate)

- State the first reason in support of your position
- Provide examples and quotes (this is your opportunity to impress with the research you have conducted)

- Show the counterargument: Outline why some people may disagree with your position
- End Topic 1 with a sentence stating why you think your first reason in support of your argument is strong

Topic 2 (Include heading as appropriate)

- State the second reason in support of your position
- Provide examples and quotes (this is your opportunity to impress with the research you have conducted)
- Show the counterargument: Outline why some people may disagree with your position
- End Topic 2 with a sentence stating why you think your second reason in support of your argument is strong

Topic 3 (Include heading as appropriate)

- State the third reason in support of your position
- Provide examples and quotes (this is your opportunity to impress with the research you have conducted)
- Show the counterargument: Outline why some people may disagree with your position
- End Topic 3 with a sentence stating why you think your third reason in support of your argument is strong

3. Conclusion

The conclusion brings together all the main points of the essay. You should refer back to the outline of your argument in the introduction and tell the reader that your essay proves your argument. The conclusion is there to give a sense of closure to the reader and to recap what you have written about. No new ideas should be introduced here. (Approximately 100 words).

Judging Criteria

Skill

The best essays will...

*Demonstrate **creative** and **independent** thinking.*

- Present original ideas and arguments
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of any arguments or counter-arguments presented
- Use a wide range of opinions from different sources
- Challenge the reader to think about the issue in a new way

*Construct a **persuasive** argument.*

- Convey a clear opinion in response to the question
- Use well-researched facts and statistics to back up the arguments made
- Address counterarguments and effectively argue against them
- Use persuasive language and devices in subtle but effective ways
- Adopt a consistent style and tone that will engage and convince the reader

*Express your opinion in a **clear and logical** way.*

- State the opinion and reasons for that opinion in the introduction
- Put forward clear and consistent arguments that do not undermine each other
- Link arguments together in a way that strengthens the overall message