

Fact sheet - Level 2

Writing a Balanced Argument

It is important that we can express our opinions in a balanced and calm way.

Use the following structure to help you write a balanced essay on the subjects of either capital or corporal punishment. (Remember which is which! You don't want to hang people for not doing their homework!)

"It is about time we brought back capital/corporal punishment". Do you agree with this view?

- Explain what the term capital punishment or corporal punishment means.
- Explain the views of people who agree with the subject.
- Explain the views of people who disagree with the subject.
- Explain which views you agree with and why.

The following paragraph links and signposts may help you to structure your writing:

1.	Also	Furthermore	Additionally	Moreover	
2.	Firstly	Secondly	Finally	Later	Next
3.	Similarly	Likewise	By comparison		
4.	However	On the other hand	In comparison	Alternatively	
5.	Although	Except for	Other than	If only	
6.	For example	For instance			
7.	Consequently	As a result	Therefore	Hence	
8.	In conclusion	As we have seen	To summarise	Overall	

You must:

- write in a formal style
- write in paragraphs
- open your essay in an interesting way
- punctuate sentences clearly
- explain your points very clearly
- use paragraph links and signposts

You should:

- include complex sentences
- use the passive voice
- write in the present tense

You could:

- begin with a fact or statistic
- use specific examples to back up your views

"It is about time we brought back capital/corporal punishment".
Do you agree with this view?

Corporal/capital punishment is

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There are a number of reasons why.....

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..... Firstly

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..... Secondly.....

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However

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I agree with

.....because.....

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