



IELTS/TOEFL Discuss Both Sides Essay

Discuss Both Sides Model Response

Example Prompt:

Computers are being used more and more in education. Some people say that this is a positive trend, while others argue that is leading to negative consequences. Discuss both sides of this argument and then give your own opinion.

I chose to write this essay by partially agreeing and partially disagreeing. This question prompt has three parts, so I need to be sure to cover all three parts in my response. I could choose to put my opinion throughout my body paragraphs, or I could write a separate 3rd body paragraph outlining my opinion. I should format this essay-type as follows:

Introduction: Paraphrase statement in one or two sentences and then state your opinion

Body paragraph 1: Give advantages to statement –with reasons and examples (optional: include whether or not you agree with these advantages).

Body paragraph 2: Give disadvantages to statements –with reasons and examples (options: include how you feel about these disadvantages).

Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL): Briefly outline your opinion –if you think the advantages or disadvantages hold more weight.

Conclusion: Restate the statement with brief advantages/disadvantages and your opinion.

Model Answer

Word Count: 298

Education has changed greatly over the last several decades. Most notably, the use of technology in classrooms has increased exponentially. While some believe this increase will positively affect students, others worry what ramifications this may bring. In my opinion, schools should be careful to not overly rely on computers for teaching; however, a certain amount of technology is necessary in a modern classroom.

We live in a technological world. Computers are part of our everyday lives. Including computers in the classroom, therefore, prepares students for their future as members of society. If students learn how to navigate the use of technological devices, they will be better prepared to undergo the rigors associated with life today. Technology can also help them connect with the classroom. Students use technology in their lives outside of school, so by bridging the gap between home and school with technology, educators can make students feel more comfortable in the classroom.

On the other hand, not all students have equal access to technology at home. Some students come from homes with several devices, like computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones, while other students may not have a single internet-enabled device at home. This means that if there was any homework or researched needing to be conducted at home, these students would be at a distinct disadvantage.



Technology can also interrupt the interactions between students and teachers, by taking the direct teaching away from the teacher and putting it into the hands of a device.

To sum up, technology can be a fantastic tool for educators, as long as it is used proportionately with face-to-face teaching. While some people worry about the effects that computers can have on classrooms, computers are part of our global society, so to exclude them from classrooms would be a mistake.