

# The Discursive Essay

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# The Discursive Essay

THE PURPOSE

# Purpose

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## DISCURSIVE ESSAY

It presents a balanced and objective examination of a subject.

The topic may be controversial, but the discursive essay attempts to present a much more balanced discussion of the issue.

## ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

It presents the advantages and disadvantages of a certain subject.

Its purpose is to both educate and persuade the reader on a particular point of view.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on a stack of books. The top book is open, showing lined pages. A red bookmark is visible on the left side of the stack. The background is blurred, suggesting a desk or study area.

# The Discursive Essay

THE STYLE

# Style

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## DISCURSIVE ESSAY

They are written in a more formal and impersonal style than other essays.

Each issue should be discussed in a separate paragraph and each paragraph should begin with a strong topic sentence.

## ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

They follow a general format. The writer states an initial thesis that contains the point of view for which the author is arguing.

The body generally presents both sides of the argument.



# The Discursive Essay

THE PLAN

# Plan

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## DISCURSIVE ESSAY

Introduction

1st Issue, situation or problem

2nd Issue, situation or problem

Conclusion

## ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Introduction

Arguments for / against

Arguments against / for

Conclusion



# The Discursive Essay

WHAT A GOOD DISCURSIVE ESSAY  
HAS

# A Good Discursive Essay Has

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An introductory paragraph (you clearly state the topic to be discussed),



A main body (points are clearly stated in separate paragraphs (2 - 3) and exemplified or justified),



A closing paragraph summarising the main points of the essay (you restate your opinion, and/or give a balanced consideration of the topic).

# The Discursive Essay

THE STYLE

# Formal Style of The Discursive Essay- This means you should do the following:



Passive voice, impersonal constructions (e.g. It is argued that...; It is a common belief that...),



A range of advanced vocabulary (verbs, adjectives, abstract nouns, etc) (e.g. heated debate concerning the controversial issue...),



Formal linking words/phrases (e.g. furthermore, however, nonetheless),



Complex sentences with a variety of links, dependent clauses (e.g. Furthermore, a tendency to self-concentration and egoism might rise when one start measuring everything from a profitmaking perspective.),



Inversion, especially in conditionals (e.g. Never has this been more obvious...).

# You Should NOT Use:



Short forms (e.g. I'm; It's) except when these are part of a quotation,



Colloquial expressions, phrasal verbs, idioms (e.g. lots of, put up with, be over the moon about...),



Simplistic vocabulary (e.g. Experts say they think this is bad...),



A series of short sentences (e.g. Many people think so. They are wrong.),

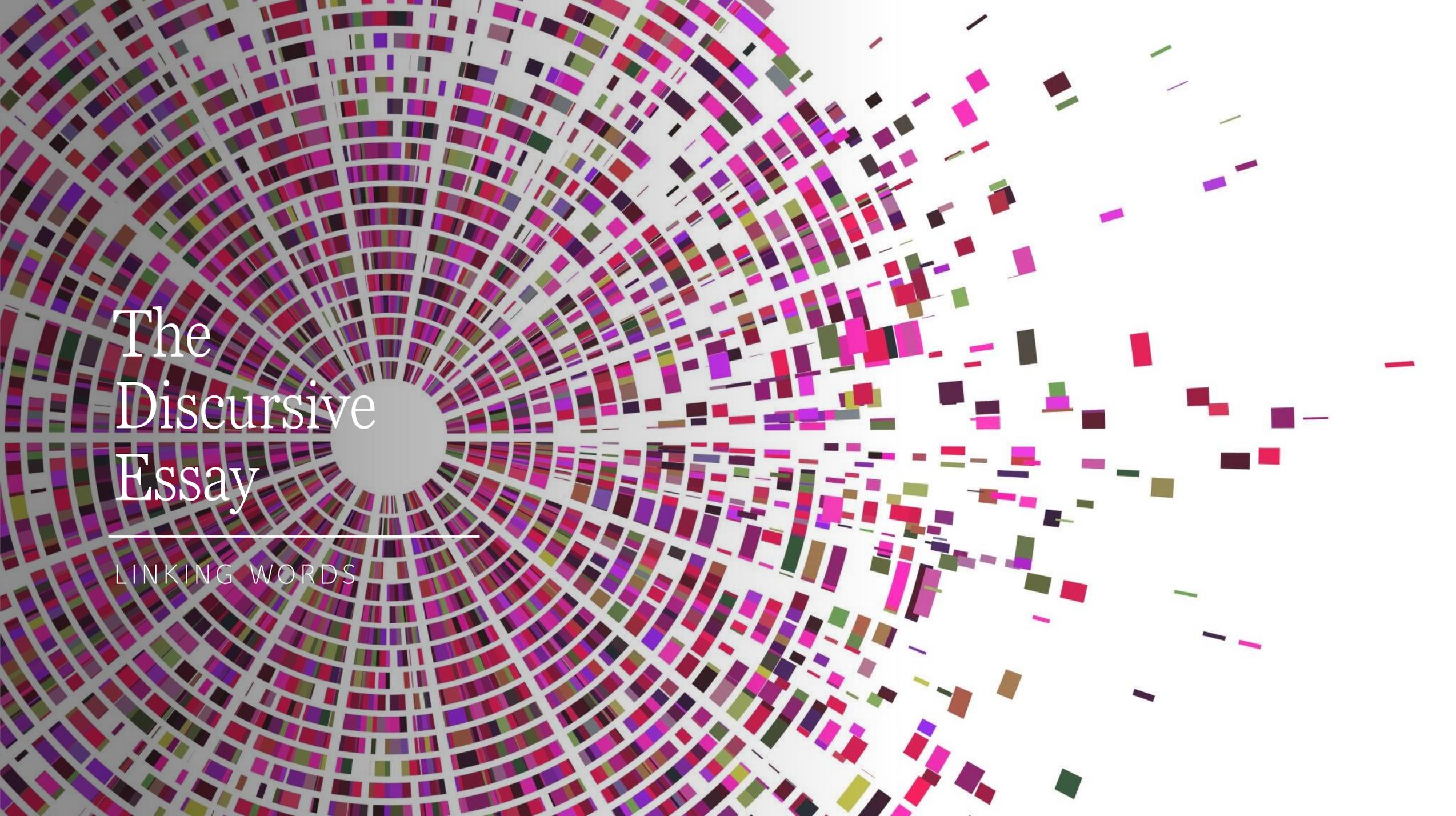


Simple linking words (e.g. and, but, so).

# In Simple Terms It Means The Following:

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✓ Do	✗ Do not use
Write in proper, complete sentences	Abbreviations (i.e./e.g./etc./UK/&)
Use complete words and expressions	Contractions (isn't/don't/won't)
Use proper, standard English	Slang (e.g. bloke/geezer etc)
	Colloquial language (mate/bolshy etc.)



# The Discursive Essay

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LINKING WORDS

# Linking Words: To Provide An Illustration/ To Give an Example:

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for example

that is

that is to say

for instance

in other words

namely

such as

as follows

a typical/particular/key example

typical of this

including

especially

in particular

mainly

most importantly

a good illustration of this is

it is interesting to note

# Linking Words: To Extend a Point/ To Add:

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similarly

in the same way

equally

besides

likewise

above all

also

as well

furthermore

in addition

indeed

moreover

# Linking Words: To Show The Next Step

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first(ly)

second(ly)

third(ly)

finally

to begin/start with

in the first/second place

first and foremost

first and most

importantly

another

then

after

next

afterwards

ultimately

# Linking Words: To Indicate or Contrast

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however

on the other hand

alternatively

in contrast

instead (of)

conversely

on the contrary

in fact

in comparison

another possibility

while

whereas

but

better/worst

despite this

in spite of

although

nevertheless

notwithstanding

for all that

yet

in opposition to this

# Linking Words: To Show Cause and Effect

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so

therefore

accordingly

hence

as a result/consequence

resulting from

in consequence of this

consequently

because of this/that

for this reason

owing to/due to the fact

this demonstrates

it follows that

this suggests that

accepting/assuming

this

# Linking Words: To Conclude

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in conclusion

it can be concluded

this implies

in short

to conclude

to sum up

all in all

in brief

all things

considered

taking everything into account



# The Discursive Essay

AN EXAMPLE

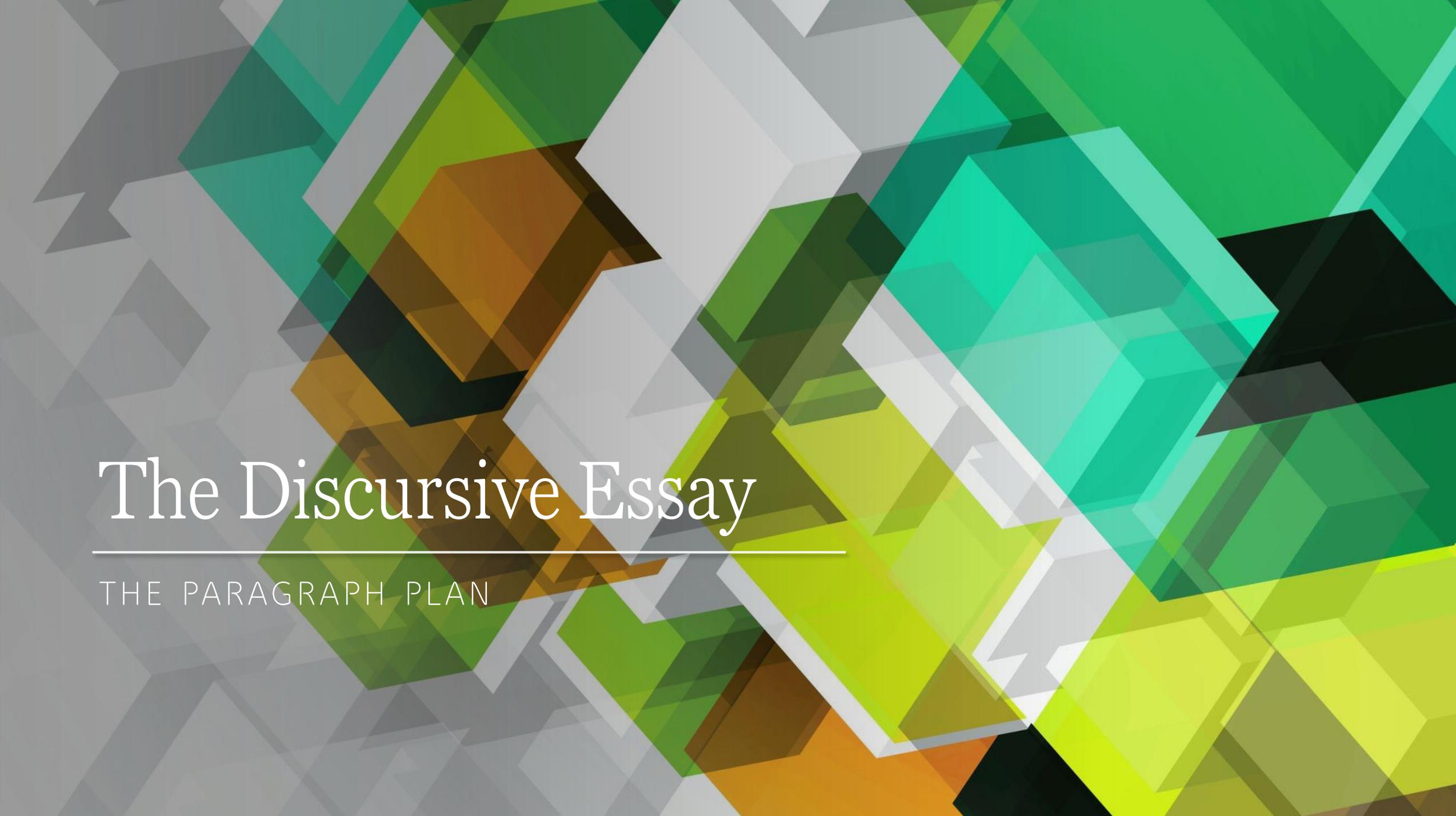
# The Role Of Marriage In Today's Society

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If there is one thing that virtually all the world's cultures have in common, it is marriage. Beliefs, diet and languages vary greatly, **but** the desire people have to share their lives with another seems universal. Why, then, is marriage so popular? Psychologists have said that people have a deep need for the emotional security which marriage provide. Knowing that one has a partner in life makes it easier to cope with the problems of daily life. **On the other hand**, the fact that many single people are content to live alone suggests that the "emotional need" theory is incomplete.

British novelist Fay Weldon once stated, "Marriage has nothing to do with emotion and everything to do with property." According to the supporters of this view, people marry in order to increase their wealth, either by marrying a rich partner or because, as the saying goes, "two can live cheaply as one." It is true that financial considerations are often the primary reason that people marry. **However**, there are countless examples of people "marrying for love", regardless of their mate's lack of money.

**All in all**, marriage continues to be extremely popular in many societies. Most of us have a need for love and support and want to have children at some point in our lives. Fully understanding the reason why people marry, though, may be as difficult as understanding the human mind itself.



# The Discursive Essay

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THE PARAGRAPH PLAN

# Paragraph Plan

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Paragraph 1: state topic (why is marriage so popular?)

Paragraph 2: 'emotional' need for a partner; comparison between single/married people

Paragraph 3: why people marry – for love/money

Paragraph 4: make general comments (difficult to fully understand reason why people marry)

# The Discursive Essay

THE LAYOUT AND STRUCTURE

# Layout and Structure of a Discursive Essay

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Detail	Discursive Essay	Persuasive Essay
Register of language	A mix of formal and informal languages with occasional colloquialisms	Formal
Style and tone	Aim for an educated audience, but the tone and style can be friendly and more openly subjective	Academic, objective, and intellectual
Use of first-person pronouns	First-person pronouns are fine	First person pronouns should be used cautiously and judiciously
Use of figurative devices	Should be used throughout	Not recommended
Use of evidence and examples	Yes, but not in a T.E.E.L or P.E.E.L format	Yes, consistently and in a particular format
Structure	Requires an introduction, conclusion, and paragraphing.  Paragraph length can vary. There is no definitive scaffold.	Introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion.  Formal structure appropriate to the Module.  Consistent paragraph length throughout.

# Discursive Essay Structure

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DISCURSIVE - for <u>AND</u> against		
<b>INTRO</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>general statement / hook</i></li> <li>• <i>elaboration &gt;&gt; scope (can include a definition)</i></li> <li>• <i>thesis statement stating that essay will consider both sides of the topic</i></li> </ul>
<b>B O D Y</b>	<b>ARGUMENT 1</b> <i>FOR*</i>	<i>topic sentence</i> <i>+ support</i>
	<b>ARGUMENT 2</b> <i>FOR*</i>	<i>topic sentence</i> <i>+ support</i>
	<b>TRANSITION</b>	<i>single sentence paragraph OR</i> <i>sentence/discourse marker at beginning of next paragraph</i>
	<b>ARGUMENT 1</b> <i>AGAINST*</i>	<i>topic sentence</i> <i>+ support</i>
	<b>ARGUMENT 2</b> <i>AGAINST*</i>	<i>topic sentence</i> <i>+ support</i>
<b>CONCLUSION</b> <i>summary of ideas +</i> <i>comment / link to action</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>restate thesis statement</i></li> <li>• <i>summarise ideas</i></li> <li>• <i>opinion</i></li> <li>• <i>closing comments/final thoughts</i></li> </ul>

# Sources

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Slideshare

[Matrix Education](#)

[Pinterest](#)