

Writing a one-sided argument (persuasive) essay

Topic: wind energy EXAMPLE

Argument: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Type: General

Level: *****[B1/B2]

Lesson Aim

To develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a one-sided argument (persuasive) essay.

Lead in

- Students brainstorm types of renewable energy.
- Focus students' attention to wind energy & ask students to discuss if wind energy could replace conventional electricity power stations.
- Students discuss & make a note of arguments for & in opposition.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page).

Assumptions

- Students already know what a one-sided argument (persuasive) is. If not go here: www.academic-englishuk.com/one-sided-argument-essays
- Students already know what a block or a point-by-point essay structure is. If not, go here: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/essay-structure>
- Students already know what a thesis statement is. If not, go here: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/thesis-statements>

Writing

1. Distribute **essay question: Wind energy cannot replace electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?**
2. Students discuss what the essay is asking them to do.
3. Whole class feedback.
4. Students discuss & decide how they wish to structure their essay (block or point-by-point).
5. Distribute **outline#1 block** (blank) or **outline#2 point-by-point** (blank). Students decide on stance & complete outline.
6. Students write a 600-800 word essay. Allow 1.30 hours.
7. Feedback options: i. Peer feedback (**Checklist** included) ii. Distribute **outlines#3 block & 4 point-by-point** (completed) & **model essays x 2** (Block 704 words & Point-by-Point 553 words) for students to compare. iii. Take in and mark. Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction.

Scaffolding/Differentiation /Extra

- Students use **outlines#3 & 4** (completed) to write the essay.
- Reading activity: students read essays & complete **outline#5 & 6**.

Copyright: These materials are photocopyable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. Please don't post these materials onto the web. Thank you

Wind Energy

Key vocabulary

1. Sustainable / renewable energy.
2. Coal fired power station, Nuclear powered station.
3. Fossil fuel, coal, oil, gas.
4. Solar, wind, hydro, biomass power.
5. A wind turbine.
6. A flaw.
7. A substitute.
8. To utilise.
9. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).
10. CO2 emissions.
11. Climate change.
12. Maintenance cost.
13. Reliability.
14. A wind farm.
15. 'to ruin the natural landscape'.
16. A reliance on something.
17. A greener society.

Copyright: www.academic-englishuk.com

Outline #1 Block

Use this outline to plan an essay on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Thesis	

Counter-arguments (opposite views to yours) - write your ideas and support	
1.Point:	
Support:	
Support:	
2.Point:	
Support:	
Support:	

Arguments (your views that support your thesis) - write your ideas and support	
1.Point:	
Support:	
Support:	
2.Point:	
Support:	
Support:	

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestion or prediction	

Outline #2 Point-by-Point

Use this outline to plan an essay on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	
Definition	
Specific	
Thesis	

Counter-argument. Transition – Rebuttal Arguments.	
1. Counter-argument:	
Support:	
Support:	
However, rebuttal arguments.	
Support:	
Support:	

Counter-argument. Transition -Rebuttal Arguments.	
2. Counter-argument:	
Support:	
Support:	
However, rebuttal arguments.	
Support:	
Support:	

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestion	

Outline #3 Block (Completed)

Use these ideas to write a one-sided argument on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	Debate - the importance of sustainable energy.
Definition	A source of [redacted] infinite and will never run out.
Specific	Main sources of [redacted] wind and hydro. [redacted] Earth and lots of innovative technology.
Thesis	This essay will investigate wind energy and argue that wind energy as a primary source of [redacted] flaws, but used [redacted] of renewable sources could be an effective substitute.

Counter-arguments (opposite view to yours) - write your ideas and support	
1. Freely available.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable source of [redacted] [redacted]. • U.K. is highly dependent on importing fossil fuels. 	
2. Non-polluting source of energy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [redacted] or CO2. • Current power stations, [redacted] emissions. • Wind energy would help governments meet targets in preventing climate change. 	
3. Cost effective.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [redacted] high for the materials and construction. • Low maintenance costs & [redacted] years. • Coal or nuclear power stations only operate for [redacted] 	

Arguments (your views that support your thesis) - write your ideas and support	
1. Reliability.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind is [redacted]. • It is impossible to predict when & strength. • Not [redacted] mands in the [redacted] 	
2. No storage system.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It [redacted] so often wind turbines are turned off. • No technological development in how this [redacted]. • Oil/coal fired [redacted] turned on and off when you need the energy. 	
3. Noise and visual pollution.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want [redacted] want them near where they live. • Wind turbines are noisy as they rotate and big wind [redacted] landscape. 	

Conclusion	
Summary	Wind energy could be a future solution for the [REDACTED] to a certain extent = cleaner & [REDACTED]. However, limitations - reliability of [REDACTED] & inability to store electricity.
Thesis	A combination of sustainable [REDACTED], hydro and biomass help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
Suggestion	Societies = use this [REDACTED] for a greener society.

Copyright: www.academic-englishuk.com

Outline #4 Point-by-point (Completed)

Use these ideas to write a one-sided argument on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	Debate - the importance of sustainable energy.
Definition	A source of energy that [redacted] and will never run out.
Specific	Main sources of sustainable [redacted]. Plentiful on Earth and [redacted].
Thesis	This essay will investigate wind energy and argue [redacted] as a primary source of [redacted], but used with a variety of [redacted] be an effective substitute.

Counter-argument. Transition – Rebuttal Arguments.	
1. Freely available.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable source of [redacted] available. • [redacted] dependent on importing fossil fuels. 	
However: question about reliability.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind [redacted]. • It is impossible to predict [redacted] • [redacted] demands in the mornings and evenings. 	

Counter-argument. Transition – Rebuttal Arguments.	
2. Non-polluting source of energy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No greenhouse gases or CO2. • Current power [redacted] of the U.K.s [redacted]. • [redacted] help governments [redacted] climate change. 	
However: question about noise and visual pollution.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want wind [redacted] them near where they live. • Wind turbines are noisy as they rotate and big [redacted] landscape. 	

Conclusion	
Summary	Wind energy could be a future solution for the diminishing fossil fuels to a certain extent = cleaner & [redacted]. However, limitations - [redacted] and the inability to store electricity.
Thesis	A combination of sustainable [redacted] wind, solar, hydro and biomass [redacted] on fossil fuels.
Suggestion	Societies = use this combination as a main [redacted] a greener society.

Wind energy cannot replace electricity power stations.

To what extent do you agree? (C. Wilson, 2017)_(Block Structure)

There has been much debate recently concerning the importance of sustainable energy and whether it can replace [redacted]. Sustainable energy is defined as a source of energy that is renewable. It is infinite and will never run out unlike [redacted] the fossil [redacted] and the mineral uranium used in nuclear power stations. The main sources of sustainable energy are solar, wind and hydro which are plentiful on the earth, and innovative technology [redacted] these natural sources. This essay investigates one of these sources: wind energy, and uses the UK as an [redacted] this form of energy [redacted] has significant flaws in the replacement of coal and nuclear power stations, but used with a variety of renewable sources could be an effective substitute.

Proponents for using wind energy to produce electricity put forward three main arguments. Their first point is that, due [redacted] source, it is freely available. As the U.K is one of the windiest countries in Europe, the location is perfectly [redacted] energy, eliminating its dependence on importing fossil fuels from other countries for its energy needs. Their second [redacted] a non-polluting source of energy. Thus when operational, wind turbines produce no greenhouse gases or large [redacted] power stations which are responsible for 25% of the U.K.s CO2 emissions. As a consequence, it is suggested that wind energy [redacted] in preventing climate change. Their third argument is that wind energy is cost effective. Even though the initial set up costs are relatively high for [redacted] of a wind turbine, once [redacted] are low and it has been claimed that a turbine can run for 100 years, unlike coal or nuclear power stations which can only operate for [redacted] arguments hold some credibility, wind energy has a number of flaws that need to be addressed before this renewable source of electricity [redacted] scale.

Firstly, there is a question about reliability. Although the UK is an island and has a considerable amount of [redacted] always blowing. It is [redacted] will blow, at what times and at what strength. As a consequence, this creates a serious problem in failing to meet peak demands [redacted] evenings. This takes us to the second serious issue that there is no storage system for the excess electricity produced. If a wind farm produces too much electricity, it cannot be stored so often wind turbines are turned [redacted], there [redacted] for how this energy can be stored. There needs to be areas where giant-sized batteries, which can absorb the additional energy, can be stored. This applies to all renewable source electricity production. The difference with [redacted] is that these [redacted] energy is needed. The final problem is noise and visual pollution. The majority of people in the U.K. want renewable energy and more wind turbines but not near where they live. This is perfectly [redacted] are noisy as they rotate and large wind farms ruin the natural landscape making the countryside look mechanised. Such examples [redacted] improvements before [redacted] completely.

In short, this essay accepts to a certain extent that wind energy as a [redacted] could be a [redacted] fuels and reliance on energy imports; however, it also acknowledges that there are serious limitations [redacted] where to build wind farms and the inability to store electricity, which prevent this source from replacing electrical power [redacted] to replace electrical power stations, one suggestion is to use a combination of sustainable sources of energy from wind, solar [redacted] create greener societies in the future.

[704 words]

Wind energy cannot replace electricity power stations.

To what extent do you agree? (C. Wilson, 2017)

(Point-by-Point Structure)

There has been much debate recently concerning the importance of sustainable energy and whether it can replace [REDACTED]. Sustainable energy is defined as a source of energy that is renewable. It is infinite and will never run out unlike [REDACTED] the fossil [REDACTED] and the mineral uranium used in nuclear power stations. The main sources of sustainable energy are solar, wind and hydro which are plentiful on the earth, and innovative technology [REDACTED] these natural sources. This essay investigates one of these sources: wind energy, and uses the UK as an [REDACTED] this form of energy [REDACTED] has significant flaws in the replacement of coal and nuclear power stations, but used with a variety of renewable sources could be an effective substitute

One argument that proponents for producing electricity from wind energy put forward is that as wind is a [REDACTED] As the U.K is one of the windiest countries in Europe, the location is perfectly placed to generate renewable [REDACTED] importing [REDACTED] its energy needs. However, despite being true in theory, there is a question about reliability. Although the UK is an island and [REDACTED], this wind is [REDACTED] to predict when the wind will blow, at what times and at what strength. As a consequence, this creates a [REDACTED] peak demands usually in the mornings and evenings. All in all, if wind energy cannot work effectively in a country [REDACTED] that this source of [REDACTED] stations on a global scale.

It has also been suggested that wind energy is a non-polluting source of energy. Thus when operational, wind turbines produce no [REDACTED] current power [REDACTED] of the U.K.s CO2 emissions. As a consequence, it is argued that wind energy could help governments meet their [REDACTED]. However, it must be clarified that although it is not polluting in the sense of CO2, there is still both noise and visual pollution. [REDACTED] renewable energy and more wind turbines but not near where they live. This is perfectly understandable [REDACTED] and large [REDACTED] making the countryside look mechanised. This example demonstrates that this source of energy needs improvements [REDACTED] stations completely.

In short, this essay accepts to a certain extent that wind energy as a [REDACTED] could be a [REDACTED] fuels and reliance on energy imports; however, it also acknowledges that there are serious limitations [REDACTED] where to build wind farms and the inability to store electricity, which prevent this source from replacing electrical power [REDACTED] to replace electrical power stations, one suggestion is to use a combination of sustainable sources of energy from wind, solar [REDACTED] create greener societies in the future. [553 words]

Peer Feedback Checklist

One-sided argument (persuasive) essay

Rationale: To improve your own writing skills by identifying the following features in your partner's essay.

Task: Read your partner's essay and complete column three in the table below.

Introduction:	Yes/No/Not sure
What the topic is and why it is important.	
Definition (if needed).	
Specific information about the topic.	
The context (if needed).	
A thesis statement.	
Main Body:	Answer Question
How many paragraphs are there?	
Which structure has been used?	
Are both counter-arguments & arguments included?	
Has the student used counter-argument & argument language correctly?	
Has the student linked the main body to the essay question and thesis?	
Conclusion:	Yes/No/Not Sure
Is there a summary of the key points?	
Does it answer the essay question & is the thesis restated?	
Does it end with a prediction or suggestion?	

Reading Exercise: Outline #1 Block

Fill in this outline for the essay on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	
Definition	
Specific	
Thesis	

Counter-arguments (opposite view)	
1.Point / idea: Support: Support:	
2.Point: Support: Support:	
3.Point: Support: Support:	

Arguments (views that support the thesis)	
1.Point / idea: Support: Support:	
2.Point: Support: Support:	
3.Point Support: Support:	

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestion or prediction	

Copyright: www.academic-englishuk.com

Reading Exercise: Outline #6 Point-by-Point

Fill in this outline for the essay on: *Wind energy cannot replace conventional electricity power stations. To what extent do you agree?*

Introduction	
General	
Definition	
Specific	
Thesis	

Counter-argument. Transition – Rebuttal Arguments.	
1. Counter-argument:	
Support:	
Support:	
However, rebuttal arguments.	
Support:	
Support:	

Counter-argument. Transition -Rebuttal Arguments.	
2. Counter-argument:	
Support:	
Support:	
However, rebuttal arguments.	
Support:	
Support:	

Conclusion	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestion	