

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 8

SUBJECT: English Language
TOPIC: Debate/Argumentative Writing
CLASS: JS1
WEEK: 8

DEFINITION OF AN ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

A debate is a form of speech in which people express different opinions and bring up arguments to support their points of view. An argumentative essay is the one that requires a writer to present a subject with a view of persuading the reader to agree with the writer's point of view.

A debate has two sides. You argue either for or against the topic. An argument is a quarrel.

The essence of a debate is to persuade the listeners to agree with your point of view, either for or against the debate topic. To convince your listeners, you need to have enough facts and details to support your points.

FEATURES OF A DEBATE

1. Introduction: begin with greetings.

Example: Mr Chairman, Panel of Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen. Then you state clearly on which side of the opposition you would like to argue.

Example: I am here to propose or oppose the motion which states

Your points should be clear and arranged in a logical order and supported with facts and statistics.

2. Language: there is no room for slang in this type of writing. Choose words and phrases that can convince your listeners. You can use rhetorical questions to draw the attention of the listeners to the points being made. Also you can use contracted forms.

3. The argument must be convincingly presented.

4. There must be clarity of expression and the ideas presented must not be disjointed.

5. 'Pro' (supporting) arguments should be kept separate from 'con' (opposing) arguments.

6. The strongest argument, both on the 'pro' side and the 'con' side should be left to the last.

7. Verbosity should be avoided.