

America's role in the world

KW 12: 16-20/03/20

Dear class 12-3.

Your assignments this week are

1. to take a photo of your homework you should have done until today (arguments against the US still being a superpower) and send it to me via email until Friday 20 March 2020. Remember to differentiate between argument/thesis and reason!
2. to write a free composition (argumentative essay) on the following topic and send it to me via email until Monday 23 March 2020:

The US still has to be considered as the world's leading superpower. Discuss.

Do not copy from the internet!!! I will find it and the wrath of plagiarism will come upon you. Apart from that, you won't learn anything from copying...so THINK FOR YOURSELF!

You can find my email address at the bottom of the very first sheet I gave you this school year (with all the information about grades and material). You could also use my official school email address which is 'vorname.nachname@avh-gd.de'. I hope you remember my name 😊 and please write it correctly.

Read the news (Guardian, New York Times, Washington Post,...do not read any dodgy news on Instagram or RTL.de 😊) and keep up with US and British politics.

Watch as much as you can in English:

- Last Week Tonight, The Late Show, The Daily Show on YouTube
- Series and movies that you watch on Netflix or Amazon Prime anyway

Have fun, stay at home and stay safe.

Ms. D

How to write an argumentative text – a written discussion

A written discussion is like a debate in the form of an essay: you are given a thesis (usually some controversial issue) and asked to examine both sides, naming relevant facts and arguments before drawing your personal conclusion. Convincing arguments and a clear structure are essential for a successful written discussion.

REMEMBER

A written discussion:

- is based on a given thesis.
- presents arguments for both sides.
- offers your opinion as a conclusion.

Typical tasks: Discuss ... / Assess ... / Evaluate ...

More info: Context ▶ Skills File 34



Now it's your turn: Write a discussion

The US still has to be considered as the world's leading superpower – discuss.

The planning phase

Step 1: Brainstorming

Collect your ideas in key words in two lists.

in favour	against

Step 2: Organizing your ideas

Decide which position you want to support. This should be the position you present secondly, as it will stay in the reader's mind when you present your conclusion.

Organize your arguments in a clear and structured way, by concentrating on important aspects. Don't overload your essay with arguments. Choose the best ones and ignore the rest.

your task:	
arguments in favour:	arguments against:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Now that you have chosen your arguments, decide how you can back them up with reasons and examples.

argument	reason	example

The writing phase

Step 1: Writing an introduction

Write an introduction that presents the topic from both points of views while catching the reader's interest. There are different possibilities such as imaginary examples, facts, quotes, questions etc.

Step 2: Presenting your arguments

Present your arguments in separate paragraphs. Make sure that each paragraph has a clear structure, as shown below.

A	a topic sentence that makes clear which side of the issue you are presenting and introduces your argument
B	a full argument containing argument, reason and example
C	a closing sentence that summarizes the argument and/or leads to the next paragraph

Also make sure you introduce the different sides you are presenting always leading the reader through your essay. They have to know what to expect!!!

Step 3: Writing a conclusion

Write a conclusion in which you make the position clear that you are arguing for. Do not introduce any new pieces of information or new arguments. Explain why you find the arguments for one side more convincing than those for the other. Do not forget to refer back to your introduction!!!