



O'level Foundation Set 9

The Write Tribe

DISCURSIVE

Discursive Essay Format		
Introduction	- Define and review topic in general - There is no need to state a stand for discursive	PURPOSE - To give a direction to the reader on what we would be discussing about / describe current situation / climate of topic and the perspectives we would be exploring. This creates a sense of direction for them on what to look out for.
Point 1	- PEEL (body paragraph - FOR)	Point - Summarise what this paragraph would be about Evidence - Use evidences to support your argument Explain - Explain exactly <i>how</i> your evidence supports argument Link - Link the point you just made to your essay topic
Point 2	- PEEL (body paragraph - FOR)	
Point 3	- PEEL (body paragraph - AGAINST)	
Point 4	- PEEL (body paragraph - AGAINST)	
Conclusion	- Summarise key points from FOR / AGAINST arguments - State where you stand - You can be FOR / AGAINST / BOTH / SUGGEST A MIDDLE WAY	- Reiterate key points and help your audience remember the highlights of both sides of the argument - DO NOT include any new points



'FOR'

Qn: Discuss the relevance of newspapers in today's world

1. Newspapers are more reliable source of information

Government - owned

Newspapers are **OFTEN** owned by the government. Newspapers in Singapore are published by the Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), a government agency. Other government owned newspapers include - 'The Straits Times' (English), 'Lianhe Zaobao' (Chinese). 'Today' is published by Mediacorp, another government-owned agency. Government-owned entities generally evoke a sense of reliability that news published would be thoroughly researched and not fake.

Traditional Print Media have earned trust

Traditional Print Media has been around longer than digital media. Digital media is fleeting. A video can be gone in seconds. However, printed material is a concrete source of information because it cannot be changed easily. Due to that, people believe the responsibility is higher when it comes to printed media and that the journalists behind it will ensure a piece of news is thoroughly researched before printing it unlike Digital Media where information can be edited instantly with a click of a finger.

Time-line

Unlike people who write for digital media, journalists who write for newspapers have more time to investigate and gather information. There is no pressure of 'breaking news'. On the other hand the new media channels have the need to be timely and break the news at the very moment and hence often the misinformation to spreads very soon in the digital space. Whereas on the other hand newspapers come out on the next day which allows journalists to provide more authentic and credible information. This feature always helped newspapers remain authenticity.



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2. Accessibility

Access to the internet is not universal. People living in rural and remote areas or those living on low incomes may not have internet in their homes, cutting them off from digital news sources. In 2020 there were reportedly **2.5 million Australians with no internet connection** because they either could not afford it or could not access it. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on individuals living without the internet, given the drift to digital communication and learning and the inability to access free internet in public places.

Print media is generally affordable and accessible, and it doesn't require special knowledge or skill to use – this builds trust in those who might otherwise have limited access to news and information.



'AGAINST'

Qn: Discuss the relevance of newspapers in today's world

1. The speed at which people consume information has changed.

There are over a billion smartphone owners worldwide. The way we consume information has changed forever. People are used to instantaneous information. We expect things at our fingertips. Newspapers used to be an efficient way to get information. However, times have changed. We get information much more easily on the internet. Our brains like novelty and efficiency. More importantly, it is convenient. Instead of having to physically go out and buy a newspaper, you can get it easily with a touch of a finger. It comes back to, 'Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?'

Thanks to smartphones, we live in an 'instant' world where we consume large amounts of information at a faster rate. Newspapers are slower in delivering news compared to digital media. Online news media is preferred by the masses because they are able to provide real-time updates on breaking news. Also, we are used to getting information with a click of the finger. As a result, consuming information from newspapers is not as appealing compared to digital news media outlets.

Simply put, newspapers are not the most 'convenient' way to get the latest news. Hence, people are leaning towards digital news media outlets.



AGAINST

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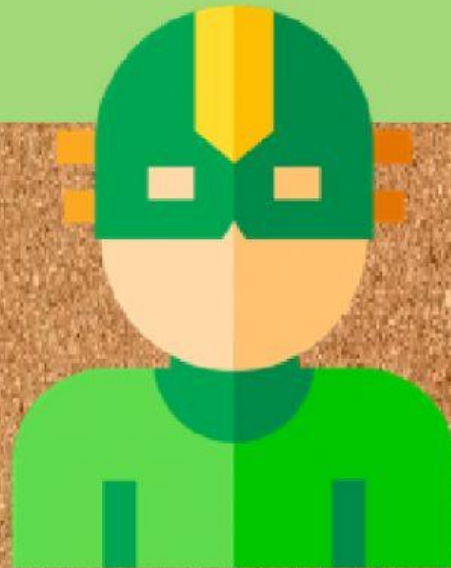
2. Digitization makes search efficient.

"Efficient search"

Digital newspapers makes search for information convenient and easy. Students can use search engines like Google, Yahoo or Bing to find relevant articles for a topic. You receive results in milliseconds. Looking through stacks and stacks of newspapers for an article will simply waste time.

Information is safe

Compared to storing physical papers that can be easily damaged, digital newspapers can be stored for many years and not be destroyed easily. It saves space! Therefore, making it efficient.



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