How to Write a Discussion Text

Name:

Purpose

A discussion presents a range of views on an issue (or outlines the arguments in favour of and against a proposal). It also involved making a recommendation. This could be a reasonable conclusion based on the evidence presented in the discussion.

Structure

When writing a discussion, you need to think about the elements shown in this diagram.

Language features:

- Use of both emotive and unbiased language
- Avoid using I or we
- Present tense (giving views) and past tense (giving examples from the past) can both be used
- Use of examples to highlight key ideas
- Use of connectives to link arguments, e.g. first, secondly, finally, on the other hand
- Use of qualifying words, e.g. usually, probably

See the sample text below
Example 1

Urban consolidation

Figure 1.9.1 Sydney’s Darling Square. Urban consolidation involves increasing population in existing urban areas in order to make more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

The process of urban consolidation involves increasing population in existing urban areas in order to make more efficient use of existing infrastructure. The alternative is urban sprawl—the continued outward spread of the suburbs on the outer edges of our large cities. Urban sprawl is very expensive. New suburbs create a demand for expensive new urban infrastructure (such as roads and public transport; electricity, water and sewage utilities, schools and hospitals, and new commercial space). The principal mechanism used to promote urban consolidation is the rezoning of residential land located close to major transport nodes from low-density to medium-density housing. Urban consolidation is, however, a controversial policy. There is a range of views for and against the policy. Those who argue in favour of urban consolidation focus on the costs associated with urban sprawl. These include the cost of providing residents with essential infrastructure rather than using existing urban infrastructure more efficiently; the loss of non-urban land (farmland and natural vegetation) to new housing estates; the physical social isolation often experienced by people living in outlying suburbs; and the reductions in carbon emissions that can be achieved by using public transport instead of automobiles.
There are also some direct benefits to be gained by redeveloping existing urban areas at higher densities. Inner urban areas can be revitalised as areas experiencing urban decay are renewed. It also increases housing options for those not attached to, or needing, detached houses in outer suburbs and those who find the attractions and convenience of living near the city centre an advantage.

Those opposed to urban consolidation often focus on the loss of amenity. They argue that higher residential densities increase traffic congestion and crowding on public transport. Parking becomes a problem and some people are concerned with the lack of privacy as apartment blocks tower over backyards. Others are opposed to the ways in which the character of a suburb changes when detached houses are demolished to make way for higher density housing. Sometimes noise is an issue and so is the influx of renters.

While urban consolidation is controversial, its advantages appear to outweigh its disadvantages. Cities can't just keep expanding outwards.
First use the scaffold below to plan your writing.
Then on the lined paper provided, use full sentences and PEEL paragraphs to complete your discussion.

Question: Using the sources provided as well as your own knowledge to write a discussion to the following question.

*Discuss the need for Australia to address the continuing urban sprawl and the competing land use within the country.*

**Intro: Things to remember.**
1. Opening argument
2. Define urban sprawl
3. Fact about urban sprawl in relation to food supply and competing land use.

Australia _________ address the issue of urban sprawl because... Urban sprawl is... Through Source ______ and ______ it can be seen that... (interpret and explain what you see happening in the sources)

**Body Paragraph (arguments)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arguments For: Identify your argument for urban sprawl</th>
<th>Define/Describe What is the argument? Describe a source and link it to your argument.</th>
<th>Explain How/why? Why/how do we need to address urban sprawl and climate concerns in relation to the issue of competing land use in Australia?</th>
<th>Discuss How is your argument for the need to address the issue of urban sprawl and climate concerns in relation to the issue of competing land use in Australia?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arguments Against: Identify your argument against urban sprawl</td>
<td>Define/Describe</td>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>Discuss</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the argument? Describe a source and link it to your argument.</td>
<td>How/why? Why/how do we not need to address urban sprawl and climate concerns in relation to the issue of competing land use in Australia?</td>
<td>How is your argument against the need to address the issue of urban sprawl and climate concerns in relation to the issue of competing land use in Australia?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations (solutions):
1. Should we or shouldn’t we address this issue?
2. How can our society address the issue of urban sprawl and the competing land use in Australia?

*First use the scaffold above to plan your writing.*
*Then on the lined paper below, use full sentences and PEEL paragraphs to complete your discussion.*
Discuss the need for Australia to address the continuing urban sprawl and the competing land use within the country.