

Phrases & Sentences for Academic Writing

providing a context

Recent work in the field has shown that...

There has been much discussion about....

It is generally assumed/known that....

situating your writing / stating your aim

This paper considers/looks at...

This discussion focuses on...

This essay analyses / shows...

outlining the structure

This paper first considers..... and then looks at.....

The first section of the essay deals with and the second half deals with.....

This study is divided into three main sections: firstly, is considered; secondly, is analysed; finally, is done.

referring to another author's idea or opinion

Marx puts forward the idea that....

In Lacan's view,

According to Phillipson's perspective.....

Jacobsen argues that.....

providing support

This shows that....

A clear example of is.....

For example,

Wang's findings (2000) support this idea.

making a concession

Yamamoto's study provides much relevant information.

Khumalo makes several interesting points.

Cohen argues convincingly that....

showing disagreement

While the discussion makes some good points, there are serious problems.

There are several flaws in Smith's argument.

Valdez' argument cannot be accepted for several reasons.

comparing

Whereas Ahmed argues for, Kinsey presents a case against it.

Surinam is considered to have a developing economy, however, France.....

As with Britain, France is considered to have a developed economy.

making a strong statement

China is, without a doubt, the world's

Certainly,.....

weakening a statement

This is possibly.....

Some members of the population seem to....

Naidoo's argument is not completely valid.....

speculating

South Africa could become....

This may result in.....

This could potentially cause....

It may be the result of....