Language features and structure of an exposition

**Purpose of an exposition**

To present one side of an argument and persuade the reader or listener to agree or take action to solve the problem

**Exposition or arguments can be presented as:**

- essays
- editorials
- letters to the editor
- speeches

An exposition or argument includes particular language features. Aim to include some of these features in your exposition.

| Conjunctions (or joining words) join one part of a sentence to another. They link the flow of the argument | so, and so, because, therefore, if, and, but |
| Modal verbs express the writer’s attitude to the topic | can, could, should, must, might |
| Evaluative language suggests the degree of approval or helps compare ideas | important, best, most, truth, largest, more popular |
| Thinking verbs | know, believe, feel, people think, agreed |
| Connective words link ideas in an argument | firstly, for that reason, for example, as a consequence, because of this, in particular, therefore, finally |

There are three main parts to an exposition. Your writing will be clear if you follow this structure.

**Statement of position**

Introduce the topic and make it clear what your position is. You need:

- a strong opening sentence that provokes your reader's interest or captures your reader's attention
- an overview of your thesis (or argument) on the topic and the points you will make.

Provide a brief outline of the key points to be covered by your argument. This gives your reader a preview of where you are going to take them. This also enables you to show the reader that your exposition is structured logically.

**Argument**
In this section you can make a number of points. Begin each paragraph with a key statement or general statement. Give supporting reasons in the rest of the paragraph.

Then make a new point in the opening sentence of the next paragraph and give supporting reasons, and so on.

**Reinforcement of the statement of position**

Sum up your argument. You could make a statement about what you see as a solution to the problem or what might happen if the situation is not resolved. You could call for some form of action from the audience.