

Supporting your arguments brainstorming and key words game

What phrases can you use to support your arguments in these ways? Brainstorm at least three phrases for each.

Personal experiences

Advantages

Certainty/ Emphasising/ Importance/ Strong opinions

Changes/ Predictions/ Trends

Clarifying/ Paraphrasing/ Restating

Comparing/ Contrasting

Conceding points/ Destroying possible arguments against/ Looking at both sides

Consequences/ Effects/ Results

Data/ Figures/ Generalising/ Statistics

Examples

Expert opinion/ Other people's experience/ Quoting/ Things read or heard/ Sources

Use the key words below to help you.

Key words**Personal experiences**

my
generally
have

Advantages

positive
main
great

Certainty/ Emphasising/ Importance/ Strong opinions

doubt
cannot
clear
obvious

Changes/ Predictions/ Trends

take
flatten
back
almost

Clarifying/ Paraphrasing/ Restating

other
way
brief

Comparing/ Contrasting

... er/ more...
same/ different
common
difference/ similarity

Conceding points/ Destroying possible arguments against/ Looking at both sides

although

accept

weakness

both

Consequences/ Effects/ Results

leads

result

because

consequence

Data/ Figures/ Generalising/ Statistics

number

quantify

figures

precise

Examples

good

with

give

instance

Expert opinion/ Quoting/ Things read or heard/ Sources/ Other people's experiences

according

said

quote

read/ heard

Suggested answers

Personal experiences

In my (limited) experience,...

I have (generally) found that...

I have (personal) experience of this.

Advantages

A positive aspect of this is...

The main/ greatest advantage of this is...

A great benefit of this is...

Certainty/ Emphasising/ Importance/ Strong opinions

There is no doubt that...

It cannot be denied that...

It is clear that...

It should be obvious that...

It seems clear to me that...

Changes/ Predictions/ Trends

grow/ increase/ climb/ rise

boom/ accelerate/ rocket/ take off

crash/ plummet/ dive

flatten out/ plateau/ bottom out

peak

dip

rebound/ bounce back/ pick up

could/ might/ probably/ very probably/ almost certainly/ definitely

Clarifying/ Paraphrasing/ Restating

In other words,...

To put that another way,...

In brief,...

Comparing/ Contrasting

... is (slightly/ quite a lot/ far)... er than...

... is (slightly/ quite a lot/ far)... er than...

... and... are completely identical/ exactly the same/ almost the same/ very similar/ quite different/ totally different

... and... have... in common

A striking/ An obvious/ A clear difference/ similarity between... and... is...

Conceding points/ Destroying possible arguments against/ Looking at both sides

Although it can be said that.....

While I accept that.....

You could say a weakness in this argument is..., but...

While there are both pros and cons,...

Consequences/ Effects/ Results

... (inevitably) leads to...

As a result,...

Because of this,...

A natural consequence of this is...

Data/ Figures/ Generalising/ Statistics

To put a number on that,...

To quantify that,...

Relevant figures include...

To be precise,...

Examples

A good illustration of this is...

I can explain what I mean with an example, which is...

To give an example of what I'm talking about...

For instance,...

Expert opinion/ Quoting/ Things read or heard/ Sources/ Other people's experiences

According to...

... (once) said that...

As... said,....

A famous quote on this is...

I read/ heard something which said that...

I can't remember exactly where I heard/ read this, but...

Test each other in pairs:

- Read out the sentences with the key words missing and see if your partner can fill the gaps
- Read out the key words and see if your partner can remember the sentences
- Read out the name of a function and help your partner make as many suitable phrases as possible

Hold a debate while looking at just the key words. Cross off any words you use during the debate, using different coloured pens for each person. The person who uses most words by the end of the debate is the winner.