

Nourrir son expression écrite et orale

1. Introduire le sujet

In most cases...
Most of the time / Most often...
Generally speaking...
People usually say that...
It is generally believed that...
It is a well-known fact that...
This is an important question / issue (*problème*)...
We may wonder whether / to what extent...
(*On peut se demander si / dans quelle mesure*)
Let us / We must weigh the pros and cons
(*peser le pour et le contre*)...
As regards... (*En ce qui concerne*)
It is often said / a well-known fact...
For the great majority of people...
A problem that is often debated today is that of...
The writer raises a key / topical / burning / issue
(*sujet fondamental / d'actualité / brûlant*)...
We are dealing with a controversy / polemic...
The subject is controversial...

2. Construire un paragraphe

a. Ordonner ses idées

To begin with / Firstly / First of all...
At first sight...
Secondly...
Then / Next / Thirdly...
Lastly / Finally / Eventually (*finale*)...
At last...
On the one hand... on the other (hand)...

b. Donner des exemples / Citer

For instance / example...
Let us take the example of...
That is to say...
... such as (*tel que*)...
In particular / Particularly...
To quote (*citer*) from...
... a quotation from...
... a striking (*frappant*) example...

According to...

In other words...

Quote / Unquote... (*Ouvrez / Fermez les guillemets*)

c. Situer dans le temps

At night / the weekend / Christmas / Easter
(*Pâques*) / lunch / that moment / the same time...
On Saturdays / Saturday evenings / March 12,
2003 / that day / holiday / the following day...
In Spring / Autumn (the Fall) / the morning(s) /
the 19th century / those days...
One day / night...
The day before (*veille*) / The day after
(*lendemain*)...
A few minutes / moments / days later...
After a while... (*Au bout d'un moment*)
Meanwhile... (*Pendant ce temps-là*)
Over the past few years... (*Ces dernières années*)
Today / These days / Nowadays... (*Actuellement*)
So far... (*Jusqu'à présent*)
Little by little... (*Petit à petit*)
Suddenly / All of a sudden...
By 2010... (*D'ici à 2010*)

d. Ajouter une idée

Moreover / Furthermore / In addition to that /
What is more... (*De plus / En outre*)
Besides... (*D'ailleurs*)
As regards / Concerning... (*En ce qui concerne*)
Similarly... (*De la même façon*)
As we have already seen / mentioned...
Above all...
On second thoughts...
On further examination...
There are advantages / drawbacks to...

3. Rendre compte d'un document

a. Présenter un document

The text is about / deals with / focuses on...
It is an extract / excerpt from a short story...
A script based upon a novel / a diary
(*journal intime*)...

A scene from a play...
It tackles (*aborde*) the problem / raises (*soulève*)
the question of...
The article is based upon the idea that...
It is generally agreed that...
The document focuses on...
It conveys the impression that...
(*Cela donne l'idée*)

b. Parler de l'auteur

She describes...
He narrates...
She refers to...
He shows / points out that...
She explains that / how...
He alludes to / hints at... (*Il fait allusion*)
Her aim / goal is to...
He praises... (*Il fait l'éloge de*)
He stands for / supports... (*Il est en faveur de*)
She sides (*prend parti*) / doesn't side with...
He gives a fair account (*compte rendu honnête*) of...
She ignores the problem of...
(*Elle passe sous silence*)
He overlooks (*néglige*) a major problem...
She denounces / condemns...
He criticizes / blames her for sth / V-ing...
He accuses them of sth / V-ing...
She is biased (*partiale*) / unbiased...
He is prejudiced (*Il a des préjugés*) / unprejudiced...
The author gives us to understand that...
The writer draws our attention to the fact that...
As the author points out...
He pretends to... (*Il fait semblant de*)
She claims / maintains that... (*Elle prétend*)
She states that... (*Elle déclare*)
He overstates / understates the problem of...
(*Il exagère / minimise*)
The journalist weighs the pros and cons...
She debunks the myth of... (*Elle démystifie*)
He is a committed (*engagé*) writer...
Her argument is consistent (*cohérent*)...

c. Résumer / Conclure

To sum up...
In short / In brief...
All in all... (*Tout bien pesé*)

The problem may be summarized like this...
In a nutshell... (*En un mot*)
On the whole... (*En définitive*)
In a word / In other words...
In conclusion / To conclude...
All things considered...
For (all) these reasons...
Last, but not least...
(*Enfin, et c'est un point très important*)
We may infer that... (*On peut en déduire*)
There is much to be said...
There is no easy solution...

4. Développer ses arguments

a. But / Cause / Conséquence

She did it in order (not) to / so as (not) to...
I intend / plan to...
He'll do it so that...
As / Since... (*Comme / Étant donné que*)
Because of his V-ing...
Thanks to...
They were jailed for V-ing...
Thus... (*Ainsi / Donc*)
... the reason for V-ing / why...

b. Comparaison / Contraste

It's the same as...
He talks to them as if / as though...
Compared to / with...
He acted like his father...
As his father told him...
She draws / makes a comparison with...
The former... the latter...
(*Le[s] premier[s] / le[s] second[s]*)
... identical / similar to...
... similarly / likewise... (*de la même façon*)
In the same way...
In contrast with...
Unlike her mother she... (*Contrairement à*)
... whereas / while...
On the contrary...
Anyway / anyhow... (*De toute façon*)
Actually... (*À vrai dire*)

c. Accuser
He accuses...
She blames...
He pleads...
I agree...
It is true...
As the...
It is a...
I appreciate...
It is true...
I side...
It is a...
I don't...
Contrary...
Instead...
It is a...
I don't...
I disagree...
It is w...
He sees...
(*Il sem*)
I don't...
She raises...
The arg...
irrelev...
I find t...
The au...
unfoun...
The re...
(*tiré pa*)
Most o...

d. Conclure
To sum...
Up to a...
In a se...
It must...
(*On est*)
We mu...
One sh...
The qu...
Howev...
(*Quel q*)
No mat...
claims...

c. Accord / Désaccord

He advocates...
She backs / supports... (*Elle soutient*)
He pleads for... (*Il plaide en faveur de*)
I agree with...
It is true to say that...
As the writer says...
It is agreed that...
I approve of...
It is true that...
I side with the journalist...
It is a convincing / forceful argument...
I don't agree / disagree with...
Contrary to her, I feel that...
Instead of listening to...
It is a questionable (*contestable*) argument...
I don't share (*partager*) her opinion...
I disapprove of his attitude...
It is wrong to say that...
He seems to miss the point...
(*Il semble être à côté du sujet*)
I don't see her point...
She raises objections...
The argument is relevant (*pertinent*) /
irrelevant...
I find the statement misleading (*trompeur*)...
The author's fear is groundless (*mal fondé*) /
unfounded...
The reasoning seems far-fetched
(*tiré par les cheveux*)...
Most of the facts are inaccurate (*inexact*)...

d. Concéder / Nuancer

To some degree / To some extent...
Up to a certain point...
In a sense...
It must be admitted / recognized that...
(*On est forcé d'admettre*)
We must take into account that...
One should not forget that...
The question is not whether...
However interesting the article is...
(*Quel que soit l'intérêt de*)
No matter (*Peu importe*) what the writer
claims...

This statement needs qualifying...
(*Cette déclaration demande à être nuancée*)
He overlooks (*néglige*) certain aspects of the
subject...

e. Critiquer

She objects to sth / V-ing...
We condemn / denounce...
I am critical of...
I reproach the narrator with / for V-ing...
She blamed her mother for not V-ing...
He accuses him of V-ing...
His arguments are worthless (*sans valeur*) /
lack (*manquent de*) coherence...
She fails to see...
She says very little about...
He lets himself be carried away (*se laisse
emporter*) by his feelings / anger / passion...

f. Donner son point de vue

Personally / In my opinion...
For my part...
To my mind / In my view... (*À mon avis*)
As for me... (*Quant à moi*)
As far as I am concerned...
From my point of view...
It seems to me that...
I think / feel / believe that...
Let us consider... (*Examinons*)
There is no reason to suppose...
It is no exaggeration to say that...
I am not suggesting that...
(*Je ne veux pas laisser entendre*)
I can't help thinking that...
(*Je ne peux m'empêcher de*)
I'm convinced that... (*Je suis persuadé*)
I am well aware (*conscient*) that...
We may notice / It may be noticed...
I'd like to point out (*souligner*) that...
It should be pointed out that...
I take a different view on the problem...
It doesn't strike me as being objective /
impartial / unbiased...
I have no particular views...
I am not in a position to say...
I don't have the slightest idea (*la moindre idée*)...

Mots de liaison

Addition

BESIDES: 1. *EN OUTRE, D'AILLEURS, DE PLUS –*
2. *EN PLUS DE*

1. I'd rather not go to the beach, it's too hot; besides, I can't swim.
2. He's got two other houses besides this one.

FURTHERMORE / MOREOVER / WHAT'S MORE:
EN OUTRE, DE PLUS, DU RESTE, D'AUTRE PART, PAR AILLEURS, QUI PLUS EST

He's vain and boring; furthermore, his wife is the same.

This dress is quite nice. Moreover, it's only £40.

Their flat is quite large and very convenient. What's more, the rent is low.

But

FOR ... TO: *POUR*

I've bought this house for the kids to play in the garden.

IN ORDER (NOT) TO / SO AS (NOT) TO: *POUR (NE PAS), AFIN DE (NE PAS), DE FAÇON À (NE PAS)*

One must eat in order to live.

He hurried so as not to be late.

SO THAT: *POUR QUE, DE FAÇON QUE*

Open the windows so that we have some fresh air.

Cause

AS: *COMME*

As we had been walking miles, we were thirsty.

BECAUSE: *PARCE QUE*

I did it because you had asked me to.

BECAUSE OF: *À CAUSE DE*

I lost my job because of a stupid misunderstanding.

FOR (formel): *CAR*

He didn't know how to answer for he didn't speak Spanish.

OWING TO (formel): *EN RAISON DE*

Owing to the circumstances, I'll forgive you.

SINCE: *PUISQUE*

Since you're so clever, why don't you talk to him?

Comparaison

AS: *COMME*

I'd like you to do as I tell you.

AS THOUGH / AS IF: *COMME SI*

He walks as if he's been drinking.

He behaved as though he hadn't seen me.

SIMILARLY: *DE MÊME*

Many Americans spend four hours a day watching TV. Similarly, a lot of French people spend their evenings glued to their sets.

Concession

ALTHOUGH / THOUGH: *BIEN QUE*

Although he is very old, he is still quite strong. Though he tries very hard, he always fails.

AS: *BIEN QUE, SI ... QUE*

Rich as she is, her clothes are tasteless.

DESPITE / IN SPITE OF (plus courant): *MALGRÉ, EN DÉPIT DE*

Despite his fortune, he's a man of simple tastes. In spite of the noise, he went on working.

EVEN THOUGH: *BIEN QUE*

Frank went on working even though he was exhausted.

HOWEVER: 1. *POURTANT, CEPENDANT, TOUTEFOIS –*
2. *SI ... QUE CE SOIT, BIEN QUE*

1. She can be cruel at times; however, I still love her.

2. However long it takes, finish it.

NEVERTHELESS: *POURTANT, NÉANMOINS*

She hasn't heard from him in weeks, nevertheless she goes on hoping.

STILL / YET: *POURTANT, CEPENDANT*

I know it's fine outside; still, you should take your umbrella.

He is quite ugly, and yet lots of girls are madly in love with him.

THOUGH: *POURTANT*

He always gets good marks; he doesn't work hard, though.

Condition

AS LONG AS / SO LONG AS: *POURVU QUE*

You can buy what you want, as long as it's not too expensive.