

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. A
 He ad
 She b
 He pl
 I agre
 It is tr
 As the
 It is a
 I appr
 It is tr
 I side
 It is a
 I don't
 Contr
 Instea
 It is a
 I don't
 I disap
 It is w
 He see
 (*Il sem*)
 I don't
 She ra
 The ar
 irrelev
 I find
 The au
 unfour
 The re
 (*tiré pa*)
 Most o
 d. Co
 To som
 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*)...