

Discursive Writing

Topic: Walking or Riding a Bike?

What is discursive writing?

Discursive writing explores a topic from different points of view. It does not simply argue one side. Instead, it looks at different ideas, explains them clearly and helps the reader think more deeply.

A discursive response is like holding two different maps. Each map shows a different path. Your job is to explain what each path offers before deciding which one may be better in different situations.

Discursive Writing Is Different From Persuasive Writing

Persuasive Writing	Discursive Writing
Tries to convince the reader strongly	Explores different sides of an issue
Usually has one clear opinion	May consider several opinions
Uses strong emotional language	Uses thoughtful and balanced language
Often says one side is best	May end with a careful judgement

The Question

Walking or riding a bike: which is the better way to travel?

For this topic, we will explore:

1. **Walking** as a simple and healthy way to travel
 2. **Riding a bike** as a faster and active way to travel
 3. **Safety and lifestyle** to decide which choice is better in different situations
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Key Words

Walking

Walking means travelling by foot. It is simple, free and healthy, but it can be slow for long distances.

Riding a Bike

Riding a bike means travelling on a bicycle. It can be faster than walking and good for fitness, but it requires a bike, helmet and safe places to ride.

Exercise

Exercise is movement that helps keep the body healthy and strong.

Environment

The environment is the natural world around us, including the air, land, water, plants and animals.

Balanced

Balanced writing means you look at more than one side fairly.

Judgement

A judgement is your final thoughtful opinion after considering different ideas.

Discursive Sentence Starters

To introduce the topic:

- Many people wonder whether...
- In today's world, people have different views about...
- Travelling from place to place is important because...
- Choosing how to travel is not always simple because...

To explore one side:

- One way to look at this issue is...
- Some people may believe...
- This could be useful because...
- For people who live close to...

To show another side:

- However, another view is...
- On the other hand...
- At the same time...
- This may not suit everyone because...

To make a judgement:

- After considering these ideas...
 - Overall, the best choice may depend on...
 - Perhaps the most sensible answer is...
 - Therefore, no single choice is perfect because...
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Useful Discursive Techniques

Technique	What It Means	Example
Rhetorical question	A question that makes the reader think	Is the fastest way always the best way?
Contrast	Showing differences	Walking is slower, while riding a bike can be faster.
Balanced language	Fair and thoughtful wording	This may be useful for some people, but not for others.
Examples	Specific details that support an idea	Riding a bike may help a student get to school more quickly.
Cause and effect	Showing how one thing leads to another	If more people walk or ride, there may be less traffic near schools.
Careful judgement	A thoughtful final opinion	The best choice depends on distance, safety and personal needs.

Planning Scaffold

Introduction

Topic: Walking or riding a bike

Main issue: Which way of travelling is better?

Examples: Walking to school, riding a bike to the park, travelling short or longer distances

Introduction sentence starter:

In today's world, choosing how to travel is not always simple because people need to think about health, time, safety and the environment.

Body Paragraph 1: Walking

Main idea: Walking is simple, healthy and free.

Possible points:

- Walking does not require special equipment.
- It is good exercise.
- It can be calming and peaceful.
- It is useful for short distances.
- It does not create pollution.
- However, walking can take a long time if the destination is far away.

Sentence starter:

One way to look at this issue is to consider walking as a simple and healthy way to travel.

Body Paragraph 2: Riding a Bike

Main idea: Riding a bike can be faster and still healthy.

Possible points:

- Riding a bike can be quicker than walking.
- It is good exercise.
- It can be fun and enjoyable.
- It may help people travel further.

- It does not use petrol.
- However, people need a bike, helmet and safe paths or roads.

Sentence starter:

Another view is that riding a bike may be a better choice for people who need to travel further or faster.

Body Paragraph 3: Safety and Lifestyle

Main idea: The better choice depends on the person, place and situation.

Possible points:

- Walking may be safer in busy areas.
- Riding a bike may be better when there are bike paths.
- Weather can affect both choices.
- Distance matters.
- Younger children may need adult supervision.
- Some people may prefer walking because it is easier.
- Others may prefer cycling because it saves time.

Sentence starter:

At the same time, safety and lifestyle are important when deciding whether walking or riding a bike is better.

Conclusion

Final judgement:

There is no perfect answer. The best choice depends on distance, safety, time and personal needs.

Sentence starter:

After considering walking and riding a bike, it becomes clear that the best choice depends on the person and the journey.

Model Discursive Response

Walking or Riding a Bike?

In today's world, choosing how to travel is not always simple. Some people want the fastest way to get somewhere. Others want the healthiest or safest option. Many people are also thinking about the environment and how to reduce pollution. So, when we ask whether walking or riding a bike is better, the answer is not as easy as choosing one winner. Instead, we need to explore the strengths and weaknesses of both choices.

One way to look at this issue is to consider walking as a simple and healthy way to travel. Walking does not need a bike, helmet or special equipment. A person can simply put on comfortable shoes and begin their journey. Walking is also a gentle form of exercise that can help keep the body active. It may be useful for short trips, such as walking to school, the local shop or a nearby park. Walking can also be peaceful because it gives people time to notice the world around them. However, walking is not always the best choice. If the destination is far away, walking may take too long and make a person tired. Therefore, walking is useful, but it may not suit every journey.

Another view is that riding a bike may be a better choice for people who need to travel further or faster. Riding a bike can help someone reach a destination more quickly than walking. It is also a healthy activity because it strengthens the body and encourages people to be active. For example, a student might ride a bike to the park or along a bike path with their family. Riding a bike can also be enjoyable because it gives a feeling of movement and freedom. However, riding a bike has some challenges. A person needs a working bike, a helmet and a safe place to ride. Busy roads can be dangerous, especially for younger children. This suggests that bike riding can be very useful, but safety must be considered carefully.

At the same time, safety and lifestyle are important when deciding whether walking or riding a bike is better. Walking may be safer in crowded places or areas with many cars. It may also be easier for short distances because there is no need to lock up a bike or carry extra equipment. On the other hand, riding a bike may be better when there are safe bike paths and the destination is not too close. Weather can also affect both choices. Walking in heavy rain may be uncomfortable, while riding a bike in strong wind may be difficult. Because of this, the best choice can change depending on the day, the distance and the person travelling.

After considering walking and riding a bike, it becomes clear that there is no single perfect answer. Walking may be best for short, simple and safe trips. Riding a bike may be better for longer journeys where there are safe paths and enough time to prepare. Perhaps the most sensible answer is that both choices are valuable. The

best way to travel depends on distance, safety, time and personal needs. In the end, whether someone walks or rides a bike, both choices can help people stay active and care for the environment.

Success Criteria

A strong discursive response should:

- Introduce the topic clearly
- Explore more than one point of view
- Use examples
- Explain advantages and disadvantages
- Use balanced language
- Include thoughtful sentence starters
- End with a careful judgement
- Avoid sounding too forceful or one-sided