Discursive/discussion Writing

What is the purpose?
• To present arguments and information from different points of view.
• To show both sides of an argument objectively.
• Commonly used to discuss moral and ethical issues.
• Remains impersonal until the conclusion.

Vocabulary
• Adverbs and adjectives are used due to invite value judgments and emotive responses.
• Language of logic and rhetoric are used.

Layout
• There is a statement of issue, often followed by a synopsis of both sides of the argument.
• The middle sections show first the arguments for, then the arguments against. Supporting evidence is given for both sides of the argument.
• The text concludes with a conclusion where the writer states their stance. The conclusion should include ’clinching’ evidence to convince the audience.

Examples: discussion essays, magazine articles.

Sentences
• Usually written in third person.
• Present tense.
• Connectives are used relating to logic, e.g. As a result, alternatively, however.
• Includes rhetorical questions.
• Phrases are used to introduce evidence - This view is supported by... As evidence of this...
• Paragraphs are linked to aid argument and counter-argument - There are some who argue that... But, some may say...
• Conclusions are introduced using stock phrases like - Weighing up these arguments, I conclude that.

Right-to-die man Tony Nicklinson dead after refusing food