



PLANIT

TEACHERS

Comprehensive Teaching Script: Mastering Discursive Writing

Topic: Advanced Discursive Writing

Level: University Students

Duration: 90 minutes

Prior Knowledge Required: Basic academic writing skills, paragraph structure, basic argumentation

Key Vocabulary: Discourse markers, rhetorical devices, counterarguments, substantiation, academic register

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and construct sophisticated academic arguments
- Evaluate and integrate scholarly evidence effectively
- Master the conventions of academic discourse
- Develop critical analysis skills for multiple viewpoints

✓ Example texts analysis sheets

✓ Argument structure templates

✓ Academic discourse markers guide

✓ Peer review rubrics

✓ Digital presentation slides

✓ Writing practice worksheets

Pre-Session Preparation

Room Setup:

- Arrange seating for easy transition between lecture and group work
- Prepare whiteboard with key terms and argument structure diagram
- Test digital resources and ensure backup copies are available
- Position exemplar texts and rubrics at student stations

Common Academic Writing Misconceptions:

- Personal opinion is sufficient evidence in academic writing
- Formal language means unnecessarily complex vocabulary
- Arguments should only present one side strongly
- Emotional appeals strengthen academic arguments

Opening Phase (0-15 minutes)

0-5 minutes

"Welcome to today's session on mastering discursive writing. Before we dive in, let's consider: What makes an argument truly convincing in academic context?"

[Display opening slide with provocative academic debate example]

Opening Activity:

- Quick-write: Students note their current approach to academic arguments
- Share responses in pairs
- Collect 2-3 volunteer responses to establish baseline understanding

5-10 minutes

"Let's establish what makes discursive writing distinct from other academic forms. Consider these examples..."

[Display contrasting paragraphs: opinion-based vs. evidence-based]

Engagement Strategies:

- Use think-pair-share for initial discussion
- Highlight key differences between examples
- Draw attention to evidence integration techniques

10-15 minutes

"Now, let's identify the core elements that make academic arguments effective..."

Core Elements Introduction:

- Evidence-based reasoning
- Multiple perspective analysis
- Academic register and tone
- Logical structure and flow

Development Phase (15-45 minutes)

15-25 minutes

Element 1: Evidence Integration

"Let's examine how scholarly evidence transforms an argument from mere opinion to academic discourse."

[Distribute Evidence Integration Worksheet]

Evidence Analysis Framework:

1. Source credibility assessment
2. Relevance to argument
3. Integration techniques:
 - Direct quotation
 - Paraphrase
 - Summary
4. Commentary and analysis

25-35 minutes

Element 2: Multiple Perspectives

"Strong academic arguments acknowledge and address counter-arguments. Let's practice this skill..."

[Guide students through perspective-mapping exercise]

Scaffolding Strategies:

- Provide argument mapping templates
- Model counter-argument integration
- Use guided practice with immediate feedback

35-45 minutes

Element 3: Academic Register

"The language we choose shapes how our arguments are received. Let's explore academic register..."

Register Analysis Activity:

- Identify and replace informal language
- Practice using discourse markers
- Enhance precision and objectivity

Application Phase (45-70 minutes)

45-55 minutes

Guided Practice: Argument Construction

"Now that we understand the key elements, let's construct a complete academic argument together."

Collaborative Writing Exercise:

1. Topic introduction: "Should artificial intelligence be regulated in education?"
2. Class brainstorming of evidence sources
3. Structured outline development
4. Paragraph construction with real-time feedback

Model Paragraph Structure:

Topic sentence establishing position → Evidence introduction → Citation integration → Analysis → Counter-argument acknowledgment → Rebuttal → Concluding connection

55-70 minutes

Independent Practice

Tiered Support Options:

- Level 1: Full paragraph framework provided
- Level 2: Partial structure with prompts
- Level 3: Independent construction with checklist

Advanced Techniques (70-85 minutes)

Rhetorical Strategies Enhancement:

- Concession and refutation patterns
- Synthesizing multiple sources
- Transitional logic development
- Voice and stance modulation

Analysis of Exemplar Text:

Examine a high-scoring academic paper, highlighting:

- Evidence integration techniques
- Argument progression
- Counter-argument handling
- Academic register maintenance

Assessment and Feedback (85-90 minutes)

Formative Assessment Techniques:

- Peer review using structured rubric
- Self-assessment checklist completion
- Teacher conferencing points

Quality Indicators:

Criterion	Excellence Indicators
Evidence Use	Seamless integration, clear attribution, relevant selection
Argument Structure	Logical progression, effective transitions, clear thesis support
Academic Register	Consistent formality, precise language, appropriate tone
Critical Analysis	Deep engagement, multiple perspectives, thorough evaluation

Extension Activities and Resources

Further Development Opportunities:

- Advanced source evaluation workshop
- Rhetoric and persuasion masterclass
- Digital academic writing tools training
- Research methodology integration session

Recommended Resources:

- Academic Writing Style Guides
 - APA Publication Manual
 - Chicago Manual of Style
 - MLA Handbook
- Online Writing Labs
 - Purdue OWL
 - Harvard Writing Center
 - Academic Phrasebank

Troubleshooting Guide

Addressing Common Challenges:

Challenge	Solution Strategy
Weak evidence integration	Practice source sandwiching: introduction → quote → analysis
Informal language slips	Create personal academic phrase bank for common expressions
Underdeveloped arguments	Use PEEL structure: Point, Evidence, Explain, Link
Poor source synthesis	Implement comparison matrix for multiple sources

Intervention Approaches:

- One-on-one conferencing protocols
- Targeted mini-lessons
- Scaffolded revision exercises
- Peer mentoring partnerships

Progress Tracking Tools:

- Writing development portfolio
- Skills mastery checklist
- Reflection journal templates
- Performance analytics tracker

Application Phase (45-75 minutes)

45-60 minutes

Guided Practice

"Now it's time to apply these skills to your own writing..."

Writing Workshop Structure:

1. Select controversial academic topic
2. Gather and evaluate evidence
3. Create argument outline
4. Draft introduction paragraph
5. Peer review and feedback

60-75 minutes

Refinement and Review

Review Criteria:

- Evidence integration effectiveness
- Counter-argument handling
- Academic register consistency
- Logical flow and structure

Closing Phase (75-90 minutes)

75-85 minutes

Reflection and Synthesis

- What makes academic arguments distinct from everyday arguments?
- How does evidence strengthen our writing?
- Why is considering multiple perspectives important?

85-90 minutes

Next Steps

Extended Practice:

- Complete full discursive essay draft
- Review peer feedback
- Prepare for next session on advanced argumentation