**Discussion**

**Purpose:** To present arguments and information from differing viewpoints

**Structure:** Opening statement - introduce the issue and preview the main arguments  
Arguments for - points and evidence  
Arguments against - points and evidence  
Conclusion - recommendation and summary

**Features:** Present tense  
Connectives (logical not time) - because, however, this shows, therefore, etc.

**Writer’s Knowledge:**

- You can turn the title into a question, eg *Should we hunt whales?*
- Open by introducing the reader to the discussion - you may need to add why you are debating the issue
- Try to see the argument from both sides
- Support your views with reasons and evidence
- In conclusion you must give a reason for what you decide
- If you are trying to present a balanced viewpoint, check you have been fair to both sides

*Finally, re-read and decide whether or not you would be persuaded*

Adapted from *The National Literacy Strategy Grammar for Writing* p154/5