

Language Across the Curriculum
F.2 Cross-Curricular Writing (Term 2, 17-18)

Geography & English (Energy Resources)

You are Ken Wong, a F.2 student at TWGHs Mrs. Wu York Yu Memorial College. You are chairman of the school Green Club. Your teacher has asked you to write an article for the school newspaper in order to help your fellow schoolmates to know more about energy resources. Give your article a suitable title and the article should contain around 250 words. The topic is as follows:

Discuss the disadvantages of using fossil fuels, and suggest ONE alternative energy resource that you think can best replace fossil fuels in Hong Kong in the future. You should justify your choice by explaining the advantages of the energy resource that you have recommended.

Notes on how to write an argumentative essay

When we put forward an argument, we should support it with reasons and examples. We do this by writing supporting sentences.

The following paragraph is an example:

<p>Topic sentence →</p> <p>Reasons & examples (i.e. supporting sentences) →</p>	<p>One disadvantage of using fossil fuels is that fossil fuels cause air pollution. When fossil fuels are burned, air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides will be emitted. These pollutants can do a lot of harm to our health. For example, ...</p>
--	--

In the example above, the **topic sentence** (i.e. the first sentence in a paragraph) states the main argument that fossil fuels are bad because they cause air pollution. The sentences that follow are supporting sentences, and they help to show the reasons why fossil fuels cause air pollution by giving examples of harmful gases, and how air pollution can harm us.

Here is another example:

What are the disadvantages of traditional textbooks? Are there any other options? If so, what are their advantages?

(Please turn over)

Introduction → [1] Nowadays, changes in technology allow students to choose between paper textbooks and e-textbooks. In this essay, I am going to discuss the disadvantages of paper textbooks, and then I will talk about the advantages of e-textbooks so that you know why e-textbooks can totally replace paper textbooks.

Topic sentence → [2] **First, paper textbooks are heavy and they are not convenient to carry around.** *Studies have shown students' heavy backpacks which are chock-full of textbooks can cause chronic back pain and accidents. They can even inflict lifelong damage to bones and muscles on children.*

Supporting sentences

[3] **Another disadvantage of paper textbooks is that they do not provide us with those powerful electronic tools that help us read better.** *The lack of these electronic tools detracts from the reading experience.*

[4] **In addition, the price of paper textbooks is beyond the means of many poor families.** *The Consumer Council found the average cost of textbooks for primary schools was a staggering \$2,219 last year.*

The phrase showing the transition from disadvantages of paper textbooks to advantages of e-textbooks → [5] → **On the other hand, e-textbooks have a number of advantages compared to paper textbooks.** *To start with, e-textbooks are more convenient to carry to and from school. We can download all the e-textbooks we need onto a PC tablet. That way, we need to carry only a PC tablet to and from school instead of many heavy textbooks.*

[6] **Moreover, if we encounter words or ideas we don't understand while reading, e-textbooks have search functions which make searching for more information easy.** *With these powerful tools, readers will be able to read faster and understand the book better.*

[7] **Finally, the cost of e-textbooks is more affordable.** *For example, a standard paper textbook costs anywhere between \$100 and \$200, but the e-textbook costs only \$20 to download, and the price is expected to fall further.*

Conclusion → [8] **To conclude, e-textbooks are clearly better than paper textbooks because of their greater convenience, better reading experience and lower cost.**