

- argumentative** – argumenterende
- obvious** – opplagte
- solutions** – løsninger
- angles** – synspunkter
- compare and contrast** – sammenlikne ved å argumentere for flere sider av en sak
- opinions** – meninger

Argumentative Text

In an argumentative text you discuss a subject or a problem, often with no obvious solutions. In this type of text you should discuss the topic from different angles, compare and contrast, and give your own opinions.

Racism Today

Racism played a major role in the dark past of the United States of America. Until just a few decades ago, segregationist policies were the norm in politics.

Fortunately, this discrimination has now officially ended in the United States, as well as in other countries. Racism and segregation are illegal in most parts of the world. However, just making something illegal does not make it go away.

Even though racism is frowned upon in most countries, some of the attitudes you find can make you think you've just been blasted back to the Confederate States in the 1800s. No one can deny the fact that racism is still a major problem for humanity. People are discriminated against in everyday life, even though it is not as obvious as it once was. Since such racist attitudes still exist, can we really boast about having shown progress at all in this area?

Cultural integration is a major topic in contemporary Norwegian politics. However, when applying for a job, who would have thought that having a Western-sounding name would significantly improve your chances of actually getting the job? This is the truth about racism today, and it is a sad one indeed.

How are we to defeat this kind of discrimination and prejudice? Some suggest racial quotas in organisations and companies. Implementing such quotas would give people with different racial backgrounds the same opportunities for the available positions. Opponents of quotas call this system "positive discrimination". In their opinion, racial quotas can still be seen as discrimination – just the other way around. People included in the quotas would be given privileges and gain an advantage over their co-workers.

The famous actor Morgan Freeman, an Afro-American, once said in an interview about the so-called "Black History Month" that he did not support the celebrations it consists of. When asked why he held such views, he answered that the only way to defeat racism is to stop talking about race, and to stop differentiating between the different races, whether it is in a good or a bad way. I personally believe he has got a point. If the quota is to be implemented in its full form, and favours for instance black people over white people, that would most likely trigger jealousy among the people who did not get the job, or who did not get a spot in a good college because of the quotas.

I am of the opinion that positions should be granted to the person most qualified and suitable, regardless of race, gender, religion and background. This would naturally mean that if a black man is more suited for a position than a white man, the black man would get it, and vice versa. The only solution to erasing differences between black and white, European and Asian, blonde and dark, is to simply prevent these more or less meaningless labels from becoming a part of the way we address each other.

State the topic you want to discuss

Argument

Main part

Example

Opinion

To sum up my personal views, I believe that racial quotas will certainly improve the economic situation of many minorities in practice, which is certainly something we should strive for, but also that further alienation between different groups of people will ultimately only lead to a deeper divide. Obviously, there is no right or wrong answer to this problem, but it is clear that we must learn from our past and look to the future, and create pragmatic yet social solutions to the problem that is racism.

Markus, 16

Ending: conclusion

Writing frames

- **Choose a suitable title** that states the topic.
- **Start** by explaining the discussion.
- **Sort** your arguments into groups, for instance *for* and *against* one solution. Example:

Topic: All pupils should wear school uniforms	
Arguments for	Arguments against
Limits peer pressure and bullying	Limited self expression
.....
.....

- **Examples.** Give examples that support your statements.
- **Linking words.** Use a variety of linking words to connect and contrast ideas and to sum up. Examples: *first, second, however, besides, on the other hand, although*
- **Ending.** Write a conclusion where you give your opinions on the topic, or simply state that there are no obvious solutions to this issue.

- suitable** – passende
- support** – underbygger / støtter opp under argumentene
- obvious** – opplagte

Activities

- Continue the table above and find more arguments for and against the use of school uniforms.
 - Use the arguments and write an argumentative text with the title: "School Uniforms".
- Write an argumentative text with the title: "Are Young People Lazy?"
- Write an argumentative text or a persuasive text. Titles to choose from:
 - Global Climate Change
 - Death Penalty
 - Dependent on Computers?
 - Does Boredom Lead to Trouble?