

IELTS Writing Task 2: different possibilities

Let's look at some different ways to answer the question below.

Extreme sports such as sky diving and skiing are very dangerous and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

Here's the original essay outline that my students and I wrote. The numbers 1 to 4 refer to paragraphs in the planned essay.

1. Introduce the topic, then **disagree**
2. Disagree with the idea that extreme sports are very dangerous
3. Disagree with the idea of banning them and taking away people's free choice
4. Conclude

Here's a second possible outline:

1. Introduce the topic, then **agree**
2. Agree with the idea that extreme sports are very dangerous
3. Agree with the idea of banning them (to save lives etc.)
4. Conclude

And another possibility:

1. Introduce the topic, then give a **balanced view** (e.g. while I accept that these sports are dangerous, I disagree with the idea that they should be banned completely)
2. Agree with the idea that extreme sports are dangerous
3. But disagree with the idea of a total ban - suggest stricter regulations instead
4. Conclude

But **don't** do this:

1. Introduce the topic, then say that you partly agree
2. Some people believe that...
3. Other people think that...
4. Conclusion

The outline above is for a "discussion" essay, not an "opinion" essay