

# Discuss a paper

## Pre-task:

Enquire about your partner's academic area of expertise. Select an academic article in your own language that you believe would be of interest to him/her and determine its key words. To find the most used words you can load this paper into a word cloud generator such as [Wordle](#) or [Wortwolken](#).

Then pick the technical and academic terms from these frequent words and create a vocabulary list for your partner.

Think of an introductory question in relation to this paper, such as a query regarding the main thesis or method. Send the article, question and word list to your partner before the discussion.

Prepare additional questions to use during the discussion session.

## Task 1:

Discuss the author's argument and the introductory question. Let your partner summarise the argument and give his/her opinion on the question. Then present your own opinion and add more detail, if possible. Discuss the relative merits of your opinions and then move on to the back-up questions you prepared.

### Text related:

The headline

The line

The paragraph

The topic

The quote

The hypothesis

To outline

To compare

To evaluate

To justify

### To summarise:

Overall ...

The main point is ...

In short ...

### To give an opinion:

In my opinion/view ...

I would say that ...

I am confident that ...

I suggest that ...

I am certain ...

I'd like to point out ...

I am convinced that ...

I suppose ...

There is strong/a lack of evidence about ...

### To criticise:

There is another side to this.

It doesn't necessarily mean that ...

That's only true up to a point.

### To disagree:

I am not so sure about that.

I am afraid I have to disagree.

On the contrary ...

What I object to is ...

I'm afraid, that's not possible.

It is rather questionable if ...

### To agree:

I agree with ...

He has a point when he writes ...

No questions about that.

What I was greatly struck by is ...

The author is particularly strong on ...

## Task 2:

Panel discussion. One of you impersonates the author who defends his/her paper, the other the presenter who introduces the author and then takes part in a panel discussion with him/her.



Image 1

## Sources

Link 1

<http://www.wordle.net/>

Link 2

<http://www.wortwolken.com/>

Image 1

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/qscag/6984985975>