

Should people marry before they are 25 years old?

Argumentative	Comments	Discursive	Comments
There is really no good reason to rush into marriage, but an increasing number of young people want to get married before they are 25.	Background (Already showing bias)	There are a number of people who get married before they are 25.	Background just reports the facts, no bias.
I believe that young adults are getting married before they are equipped with the skills to build a solid relationship that can last a lifetime.	Thesis statement – Clearly states your opinion	This essay will discuss age and if it affects the success of a marriage	Thesis statement, just states the topic. Not the viewpoint.
There are great advantages to getting married older. Firstly it enables people to concentrate on their education and get a degree and then a good job before contemplating marriage. This gives a solid financial foundation for the marriage and is likely to lessen concerns about money which lead to many arguments within a marriage.	Likely situation	There are advantages to getting married older. Firstly it enables people to concentrate on their education and get a degree and then a job before contemplating marriage. This may lessen concerns about money which could lead to arguments within a marriage.	Point in favour. Formal language, no emotions
Secondly one has the opportunity to meet more people before getting married and ensuring that they have met the person that is right for them. For example at university students get the opportunity to meet hundreds of interesting friends from a variety of backgrounds. On average a university student meets 900 people, whereas at school there are relatively few people to meet and children only tend to socialize with their own class.	Used statistics to back up the argument.	Secondly one might have the opportunity to meet more people before getting married. On average a university student meets 900 people whereas the average school only has a class of 30 and relatively few opportunities to meet people outside of their year group.	Point in favour. More extensive use of statistics
Thirdly divorce is much higher, because they do not have the emotional maturity to communicate effectively and compromise. For example Britney Spears got married when she was 22 and was divorced 2 years later and has been in and out of psychological therapy ever since.	Using a celebrity example	Thirdly the divorce rate among young people is higher and this may lead to psychological problems. Psychologists report that there are a number of young people who have difficulties after a divorce.	Do not use celebrities in a discursive assignment, but could use respected academics.

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<p>It is true that there are physical benefits to having children when you are much younger. However those are outweighed by the benefits of maturity which will ensure a parent can effectively bring up a child with good values so that they can become a decent member of society. A large number of young parents have no jobs and their children in turn have no jobs.</p>	<p>Counter argument designed to minimize impact of other viewpoint</p>	<p>There are also disadvantages to getting married when you are older. The biggest concerns are to do with child-birth and statistics show that women over 30 are more likely to have a miscarriage, have complications during birth and recover more slowly after the birth. After 40 most women will be unable to have children and older parents may not be physically able to do physical activities with their children.</p>	<p>Point against</p>
<p>Some may argue that by waiting to get married you may miss your dream partner. This is certainly not true, waiting to get married does not mean not meeting people and dating them. However if they are your ideal partner they will wait until the right time before getting married. For example my sister-in-law met her husband when they were at school, but they waited until they could afford a proper wedding before getting married.</p>	<p>Counter argument – Suggesting that the other point is incorrect in their argument.</p>	<p>The second argument against waiting to get married is that people may miss their opportunity to get married to their ideal partner. Evidence suggests that most couples meet in university and there is a growing number of people who are using Websites and getting back together with their school partners.</p>	<p>Point against</p>
<p>In conclusion it is clearly better to wait before getting married, because those that marry young, fail to marry the right person, are rarely wealthy and may end up with psychological trauma.</p>	<p>Strong final statement</p>	<p>To conclude, the main benefits of a later marriage are emotional and financial maturity whereas if people get married younger there will be reduced physical risks during pregnancy.</p>	<p>Balanced final statement</p>

Additional Questions

1. Do you think that a marriage arranged by parents is better than a love match?
2. Do you think that men and women are equal?
3. Do you think that people should be forced to have a medical examination before marriage to check for sexual diseases and possible genetic incompatibilities?
4. Do you think that couples should be forced to wait for six months before getting married?
5. Do you think that gay couples should be allowed to form a legal union?

Differences between argumentative and discursive

Argumentative	Discursive
Can use emotional language	Must use logical language
Can use personal pronouns e.g. I, you, we and they	Must be written in the third person
Should use your own opinion	Must appear to be balanced
Can use informality to persuade	Must be written formally
Should take a side from the start	Must be balanced until the conclusion

Teacher's Notes

The table can be used as a table top cut out exercise to encourage students to see the difference between the two types of assignments. The main example is designed to help students understand this difference more clearly, but they can be used individually as examples of how to answer the question.

Approaches to the question

- You may want to have a discussion on the topic and then see how the students' idea compare to the ideas in my class.
- You could give a written exercise first and then ask them to compare it with the model answer.
- You could ask the students to compare the two styles of assignment.

The example essays was typed live in class using the students' ideas to help them get a better understanding of the differences between the two types of questions.