**Framework to plan ‘For or Against?’ style essays**

Most essays are, at their core, about presenting arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’ a position, defending the position you find most convincing. You can draw together the best arguments on either side and present this synthesis as your final position. The framework below can help you to organise your thoughts, material and arguments for these kinds of essays. You can adapt this template to suit you or the title.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **‘For’ or ‘Against’? style essays** | |
| **Title** |  |
| **The implicit question** |  |
| **Options for positions on this question** |  |
| **My position (thesis)** |  |
| **Arguments ‘For’ my position** | **Evidence and examples** |
|  |  |
| **Arguments ‘Against’ my position (the antithesis)** | **Evidence and examples** |
|  |  |
| **Weighing up the arguments and the evidence** | |
|  | |
| **Synthesis / conclusions / ultimate position** | |
|  | |

See also: The Study Skills Handbook, page 335.