

METHOD AND TOOLS FOR WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMENTARIES IN ENGLISH

1. Introduction

- Open with a **short introductory sentence** to situate the document in its context or to introduce the issue.

With the growing gap / tensions / difficulties between... and...	It is often claimed that... <i>on prétend souvent que...</i>
With the advent of hybrid vehicles / e-books... <i>avec l'apparition de</i>	It is often said that... <i>on dit souvent que...</i>
Following the recent/unexpected/striking development of...	Most of the time... <i>la plupart du temps...</i>
In most cases... <i>dans la plupart des cas...</i>	In recent years... <i>ces dernières années...</i>
For most people... <i>pour la plupart des gens...</i>	At a time when the issue of... is increasingly debated...
People tend to forget that... <i>on a tendance à oublier que...</i>	<i>A un moment où le sujet... revient de plus en plus dans les débats...</i>

- Then you need to **identify the document** (source, date of publication...)

-This article/speech/leader was published in the <i>Guardian</i> on July 11 th , 2012.
-This article taken from the <i>Guardian</i> dates back to last May when the government passed a law on...
-The article is taken from the <i>Guardian</i> , a British daily. It is dated December 2011.

- Say **what the document is about** in one sentence to show you understand it. (What, where, when?)

What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The central issue / the main subject is the death penalty, a highly controversial issue. <i>Le sujet principal est la peine de mort, un sujet très controversé.</i> -This article, taken from... deals with/focuses on/addresses the issue of... <i>cet article, tire de... traite/parle de...</i> -This article's main subject is energy consumption, a recurrent theme today. <i>L'article traite principalement de la consommation en énergie, thème récurrent aujourd'hui.</i> -It draws attention to / raises the question of... -As the title seems to suggest, the article outlines the debate over... <i>Comme le titre semble le suggérer, l'article expose les grandes lignes du débat sur...</i> -It discusses the pros and cons of... <i>Il discute des avantages et inconvénients de...</i>
Where?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> →You are supposed to know the names of cities, countries and their inhabitants. →Watch your grammar as far as place names are concerned –the UK, the US, as opposed to Ø England, Ø America...
When?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The article was published right/shortly/a few months after..., it casts a new light on... <i>L'article a été publié juste/peu de temps/qqs mois après... donne un nouvel éclairage sur...</i> -In the wake of what happened... <i>Dans le sillage de ce qui est arrivé...</i> -The events that took place in... were widely covered by the media / triggered a controversy. <i>Les événements qui se sont déroulés à... ont été très largement couverts par les médias / ont suscité la controverse.</i>

- Then, you should mention the question raised by the document (to be answered in your conclusion thanks to your commentary).

-It all boils down to whether... <i>Tout revient à la question de savoir si...</i>
-The article raises the following question: ... ? <i>L'article soulève la question suivante : ... ?</i>
-The main question that arises from the text is: ... ? <i>La question essentielle qui émerge du texte est: ... ?</i>
-What is at stake in this article is... <i>Ce qui est en jeu dans cet article c'est...</i>

- The structure of the document needs to be mentioned at the end of your introduction. (=outlining the main ideas)

The article starts with... then focuses on... before coming back to...
Several points of interest arise in the article : first(ly) ..., first of all... <i>premièrement...</i> / to begin with ... <i>tout d'abord...</i> , then..., next..., <i>ensuite...</i> , <i>puis...</i> , lastly ..., finally... <i>enfin/en dernier lieu/finale...</i>
The main points in the article are : ...