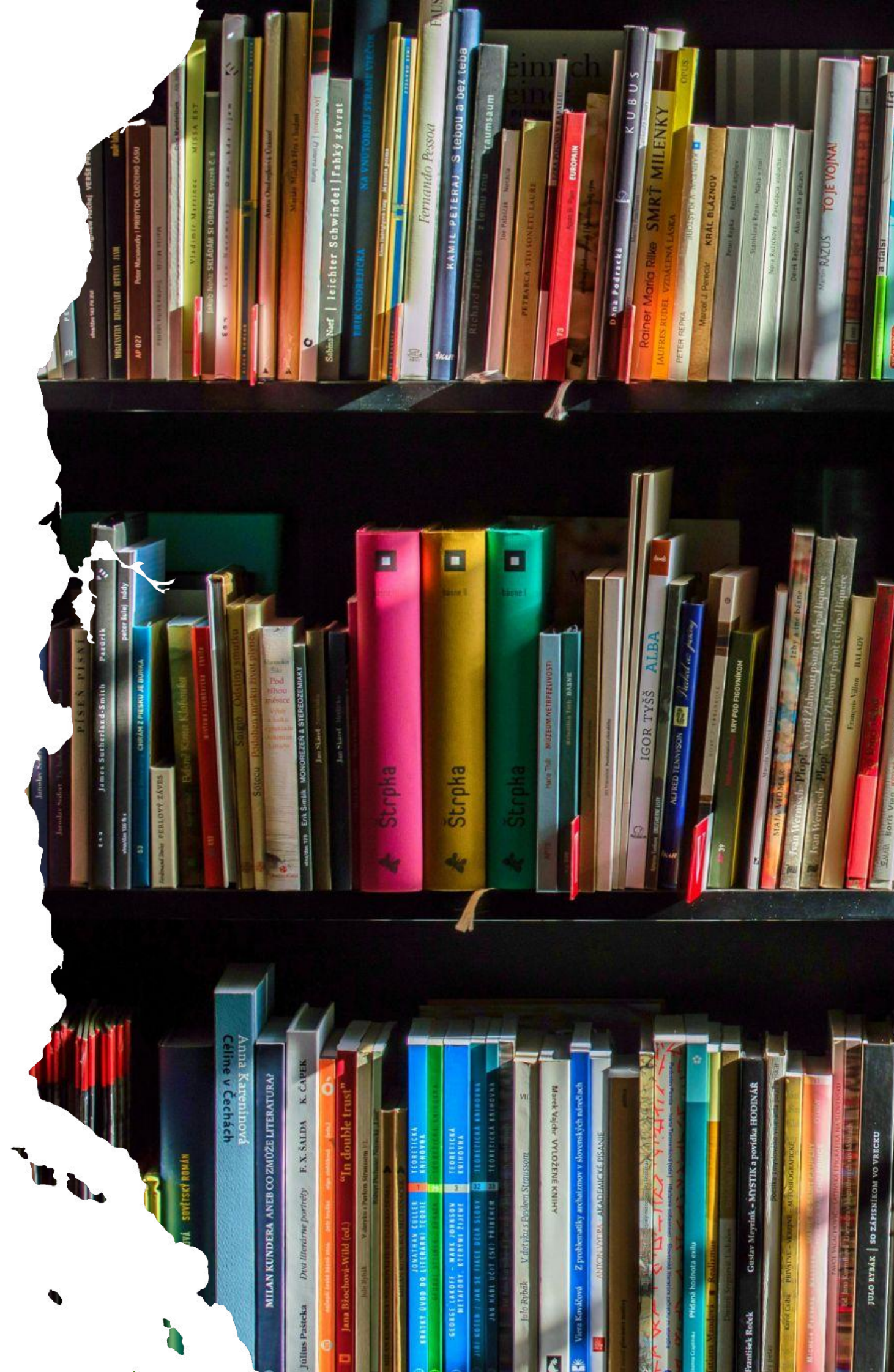


# DISCUSSION ESSAY STRUCTURE

A COLLECTION



# DISCUSSION ESSAY STRUCTURE

A discussion essay looks at a problem from different angles. It has a clearly formulated research question and a number of possible answers.

In the conclusion, you may conclude that one answer is superior, or that the issue is complicated and needs to be investigated further.

## *How?*

- 1. INTRODUCTION & RESEARCH QUESTION**
- 2. ANSWER 1**
- 3. ANSWER 2**
- 4. ANSWER 3**
- 5. ANSWER 4**
- 6. CONCLUSION**

# CHOOSING YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION & ANSWERS



## RESEARCH QUESTION

This is the question you are trying to answer. It should not be too broad - try to be specific enough so that everyone understands what you mean.

**Clear and focused:** Is social media use making teenagers depressed?

**Open but still possible:** How is social media affecting teenagers' mental health.

**Too vague and open:** Is social media ruining society?

## ANSWERS

Find two to four answers that give interesting perspectives. If there are opposing facts or opinions, make sure you make room for both.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR ESSAY

You can organize your essay in five or six paragraphs:

1. Introduction & research question
2. Answer 1
3. Answer 2
4. Answer 3
5. Answer 4
6. Conclusion: repeat your question and state whether the answer is clear or if more research is needed.

# PLANNING YOUR THESIS & ARGUMENTS

Research  
question:

ANSWER 1:

ANSWER 2:

ANSWER 3:

ANSWER 4:



# USEFUL PHRASES & LINKING WORDS

## Presenting your answers

- On the one hand, on the other hand...
- Additionally, in contrast, however...

## Citing your sources

- “In a survey by Save the Children (2024), they show that...”
- “According to statistics from the ILO (2023), Nigeria has an unemployment rate of...”
- “In a research paper in Nature (2020), four climate scientists present...”

## Conclusion

- In conclusion...
- On the whole...
- To summarize...