

## Academic Writing Guide

### Sentence Outline for a 1,500-word essay – Stage 2, Part 2

Using Lukes' three dimensions of power explain the relationship between the Sweden Democrats and immigrants in Swedish society.

#### Introduction (150 words)

After the Sweden Democrats entered the Swedish government in 2010, immigration has been a hot topic on the political agenda. Sweden has since the second World War had one of the world's most generous asylum policies, but it has been in the Sweden Democrats' best interest to denounce it. This essay will argue that despite not having any direct power, the Sweden Democrats still have a significant influence and a negative impact in how we view refugees and immigrants as a whole. It will begin by explaining the inequalities in Swedish society produced by the exclusion of democracy and nationalism. This will be linked to how the Sweden Democrats' rhetoric about the already existing division between 'Swedes' and 'immigrants' works to further emphasize it and then followed by how they use it to change the minds of voters.

#### Main body (1,200 words)

*Section 1 (300 words): Background on Sweden's immigration and the politics of exclusion*

- Sweden started receiving refugees after World War II with many from South America, Iran and the Balkans. (Hellström/Nilsson)
- The division between 'Swedes' and 'immigrants' creates inequality and works to exclude based on ethnicity. Who is included into society is based on how well they can integrate into it. (Dahlstedt/Hertzberg)
- This division and assimilation practice tends to put Swedish culture and moral codes as something superior to others, and through concepts such as 'culture clashes', there are assumed to be fundamental differences. (Dahlstedt/Hertzberg)
- Lukes has defined three different dimensions of power, where the second one is about who sets the rules for the game. In this case Swedish society sets the rules. (Dahlstedt/Hertzberg)

*Section 2 (500 words): Analysis of how the Sweden Democrats build on a rhetoric of populism, exclusionary racism and 'care' racism.*

- The third dimension of power is defined as an influence on others into shaping their wants and needs. (Lukes) This will be shown in how the Sweden Democrats shapes our view of immigrants.
- They have their roots in Nazi and racist organisations but have reinvented their image by banning extremism, and instead of using the word race, tend to prefer ethnicity, culture or religion (Hellström/Nilsson). They use a populist rhetoric, as Mudde explains as "a thin-centred ideology that considers society to be ultimately separated into two homogenous and antagonistic camps, "the pure people" versus "the corrupt elite," and which argues that politics should be an expression of the *volonté générale* (general will) of the people" (p.6), to question the actions of the government, and to create an 'Other', that is immigrants.
- Sweden Democrats tend to see immigrants as a homogenous group, and use the terms refugee, immigrant and Muslim interchangeably. Individual actions are often seen as common traits for the entire group (Lee Tomson).
- Sweden is seen as superior and the differences in culture are large enough that it is impossible for them to assimilate into society and instead create a violent parallel society dependent on social welfare. Their shared common values are threatened by multiculturalism (Hellström/Nilsson).

*Section 3 (300 words): How the rhetoric changed voters' minds*

- By changing their image to a more legitimate party and putting immigration on the agenda.
- They say they want to keep refugees out for their own sake, as they cannot assimilate and will always be excluded, hence they want to stop immigration because they care (Mulinari/Neergaard).
- A rise in crime and strain on the welfare system has been solely blamed on refugees by the Sweden Democrats, failing to consider any other aspects as well as common use of false information (Lee Tomson).
- They did therefore create an 'us' and 'them', where the latter was problematically different, long before the 2015 refugee crisis, creating an exaggerated narrative which saw a surge in voters (Lee Tomson).

*Section 4 (100 words): Counter-argument*

- One could instead argue that the view of immigrants and refugees wasn't so much created by the Sweden Democrats, but is an accurate view of the group as a whole.
- But very little official data is available on the relation between immigrants and crime and the existing data can be very misleading. The fact that assimilation is hard can depend on multiple factors, such as lack of access to the housing and jobs market and the ambiguity of 'Swedish culture' (Lee Tomson).
- Sweden Democrats have been known to use 'alternative media', which often exaggerates violence by immigrants (Lee Tomson).

## Conclusion (150 words)

With the use of Lukes' dimensions of power, this essay has shown how the Sweden Democrats have impacted the debate around immigration, asylum policies and a 'Swedish identity', by painting all immigrants as violent, strongly religious and conservative people with a culture and moral code inferior to that of the Swedish people. They had a significant influence in how the public responded to the 2015 refugee crisis and might have had a major impact in the debate to close the borders. Though the magnitude of their power might not be fully realised until and if they are in a majority coalition in government, one is left to wonder what would have happened during the refugee crisis if the Sweden Democrats would not have succeeded in changing our view towards immigrants.