

Writing 4

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CONTENTS OF THIS COURSE

YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO WRITE THREE TYPES OF ESSAY

- PROBLEM SOLVING ESSAY
- OPINION ESSAY
- "FOR AND AGAINST" ESSAY





LESSON 1: PROBLEM SOLVING ESSAY

DEFINITION

An essay in which we suggest solutions to a problem is a formal piece of writing. For each suggestion made, we should mention any expected results or consequences.

A good essay providing solutions to problems should consist of:

- a) an **introductory paragraph** which states the problem (reasons why it has arisen can also be included);
- b) a **main body** in which we present our suggestions and results/consequences (remember to begin a new paragraph for each suggestion made); and
- c) a **closing paragraph** in which we summarise our opinion.

STRUCTURE OF A PROBLEM SOLVING ESSAY

Introduction

Paragraph 1

state the problem



Main Body

Paragraph 2

suggestion 1 & result

*Paragraph 3 **

suggestion 2 & result



Conclusion

Final Paragraph

summarise opinion

USEFUL LANGUAGE

To introduce suggestions: To begin/start with, One way to, Another solution would be ..., Another way to ... would be ...

To express cause: because of/owing to/due to the fact that, for this reason

To express effect: thus, therefore, as a result, consequently, so, as a consequence

To express reality: in fact, as a matter of fact, actually, in practice

To emphasise what you say: obviously, clearly, needless to say, in particular

To conclude: All in all, To sum up, All things considered

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Useful Expressions: Problems & Solutions

- | | | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steps | should | be taken | so as to
in order to | solve/overcome/combat ... |
| Measures | must | | | deal with/eradicate ... |
| | could | | | |

Serious attempts to halt/prevent/solve ... must be made.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| One (possible) | way to | solve/overcome | this problem
the problem (of) ... | would be/
is ... |
| Another | | combat/deal with | | |
| An alternative | | eradicate | | |
- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| People | should focus their/
our attention
on ways | to solve/overcome the problem of ... |
| Governments | | to improve the situation of ... |
| We | | to reduce the impact of ... on society ... |
- | | |
|---|---|
| If steps/measures were taken to ... | the effect/result/
consequence
would be ... |
| If ... happened/were to happen, | |
| If attempts were made to address the problem | |
| By (+ing) ..., we/governments/etc, can ensure that /prevent ... | |
| The ... situation could be improved if .../It would be a good idea if ... | |
- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| The | effect/consequence | of (+noun/-ing) | would
might | be ... |
| | outcome/result | | | |

EXERCISE 1: Match each suggestion with corresponding result and link them with an appropriate word/phrase given in the box.

thus, therefore, so, as a result, consequently

Suggestions

- 1 One way to solve famine disasters in third-world countries is for the rest of the world to provide them with the financial aid they need in order to build extensive irrigation systems.
- 2 One way to help reduce pollution in large cities would be to encourage people to only drive vehicles which run on lead-free fuel.
- 3 It has been suggested that one way of helping homeless people is for authorities to accommodate them in low-cost hostels.
- 4 Another solution would be for the social services to pay unemployment benefit for a limited time only.
- 5 One way for people to use up excess energy is to take up a sport of some kind.

Results

- a They would have a secure base from which to rebuild their lives and perhaps find jobs.
- b They would be more relaxed and suffer less stress.
- c They would be able to grow their own crops successfully and increase their food supplies.
- d There would be less air pollution due to the reduction in harmful exhaust fumes.
- e More people would be encouraged to enter the workforce as soon as possible.

so, thus, therefore, as a result, consequently

EXERCISE 2: Brainstorm ideas for the following question.

Parents are often unaware of the difficulties and problems their teenage children face and are unable to help them. What could parents and children do to overcome the gulf between them?



Lesson 2: opinion essay



DEFINITION

Opinion essays are formal in style. They require your opinion on a topic which must be clearly stated and supported by reasons. It is necessary to include the opposing viewpoint in another paragraph.

A successful opinion essay should have:

- a) an **introductory paragraph** in which you state the topic and your opinion;
- b) a **main body** which consists of two or more paragraphs. Each paragraph should present a separate viewpoint supported by your reasons. Another paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint and reasons may be included; and
- c) a **conclusion** in which you restate your opinion using different words.

STRUCTURE OF AN OPINION ESSAY

Introduction

Paragraph 1

state the topic and your opinion clearly

Main Body

Paragraph 2

viewpoint 1 and reason

Paragraph 3 *

viewpoint 2 and reason

Paragraph 4

give the opposing viewpoint and reasons

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

restate your opinion, using different words

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Useful Language

To express opinion: I believe, In my opinion, I think, In my view, I strongly believe, The way I see it, It seems to me (that)

To list points: In the first place, first of all, to start with, Firstly, to begin with

To add more points: what is more, another major reason, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this, not to mention the fact that

To introduce contrasting viewpoints: It is argued that, People argue that, Opponents of this view say, There are people who oppose, Contrary to what most people believe, As opposed to the above ideas

To introduce examples: for example, for instance, such as, in particular, especially

To conclude: To sum up, All in all, All things considered, Taking everything into account

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Useful Expressions for Giving Opinions:

To my mind/To my way of thinking, ...

It is my (firm) belief/opinion/view/conviction (that) ...

In my opinion/view ...

My opinion is that,

I (firmly) believe ...

I (definitely) feel/think that ...

I am (not) convinced that ...

I am inclined to believe that ...

I (do not) agree that/with ...

It seems/appears to me ...

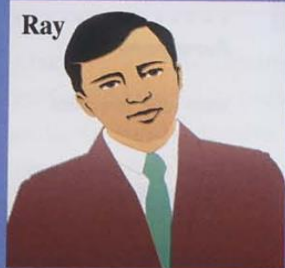
It strikes me that ...

As far as I am concerned, ...

EXERCISE: Match each viewpoint with the right reason and write an essay of 150 – 180 words on the topic: Has genetic science gone too far?

Viewpoints

Ray



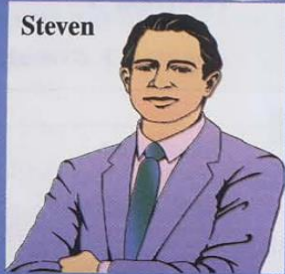
1

In my opinion, there are many good medical reasons for experimenting with genetic engineering.

2

The way I see it, genetic science is moving forward far too fast.

Steven



3

I think changing the way things happen naturally poses many risks.

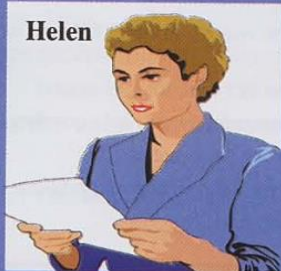
4

I believe that genetic science is frightening, especially when it concerns human life.

5

It seems to me that genetic engineering is the key to solving the world's famine problems.

Helen



Reasons

A ☐

Once scientists have perfected the technique of cloning prime sheep and cows for food, there will be plenty to eat for everyone.

B ☐

We are working against nature, which is dangerous, and we have no idea what effect it will have on the natural order of things.

C ☐

Scientists should stop and consider whether their experiments will benefit mankind or not before it is too late.

D ☐

Imagine if scientists find a way to create human beings in a completely artificial way.

E ☐

It can help to trace diseases and may help to save the lives of millions of people around the world. Eventually, we may be able to eliminate all terminal illnesses.



Lesson 3: for and against essay



DEFINITION

One type of argumentative essay is that which gives advantages and disadvantages (**For and Against**). It is a formal piece of writing in which a topic is considered from opposing points of view.

A good essay of this type should consist of:

- a) **an introductory paragraph** in which you state the topic. This means that you talk generally about the topic without giving your opinion;
- b) **a main body** in which the points for and the points against, along with your justification, appear in two separate paragraphs; and
- c) **a closing paragraph** in which you give either your opinion or a balanced consideration of the topic.

Note: In this type of essay writing, you must **not** include opinion words (I believe, I think, etc.) in the introduction or the main body. Opinion words can **only** be used in the final paragraph, where you may state your opinion on the topic.

STRUCTURE OF AN OPINION ESSAY

Introduction

Paragraph 1

state topic (summary of the topic without giving your opinion)



Main Body

Paragraph 2

*arguments for **

Paragraph 3

*arguments against **



Conclusion

Final Paragraph

balanced consideration/opinion

Points to consider

Points to consider

- Make a list of the points for and against a topic before you start writing.
- Write well-developed paragraphs in which the points you present are supported with justification, (i.e. reasons or examples). Make sure each paragraph has more than one sentence. *e.g. One advantage of using a word processor is that it saves time. It is much quicker to make corrections on one than it is to do them by hand.*
- Do not use informal style (e.g. short forms, colloquial language, etc.) or strong language (e.g. *I firmly believe*, etc.)
- Try to include a quotation relevant to the topic you are writing about. For example, if you are writing an essay on space exploration, a quotation you may include is: *"One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."* (Neil Armstrong)
- Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Linking Words/Phrases

To introduce points: one major advantage/disadvantage of, a further advantage, one point of view in favour of/against

To list points: in the first place, first of all, to start with, secondly, thirdly, finally, last but not least

To add more points to the same topic: what is more, furthermore, also, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this/that, not to mention the fact that

To make contrasting points: on the other hand, however, in spite of, while, nevertheless, despite, even though, although, it can be argued that

To introduce examples: for example, for instance, like, especially, such as, in particular

To conclude: to sum up, all in all, all things considered, in conclusion, on the whole, taking everything into account, as was previously stated

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

- **To list points:**
Firstly, First of all, In the first place, To begin/start with,
Secondly, Thirdly, Finally
- **To list advantages:**
One/Another/A further/An additional (major) advantage of ... is ...
The main/greatest/first advantage of ... is ...
- **To list disadvantages:**
One/Another/ A further/An additional (major) disadvantage/drawback of ...
The main/greatest/most serious/first disadvantage /drawback of ...
Another negative aspect of ...
- **To introduce points/arguments for or against:**
One (very convincing) point/argument in favour of ... / against ...,
A further common criticism of ... / It could be argued that ...,

It is	often	claimed/suggested argued/maintained/ felt/believed/held	that ...
	widely		
	generally		

some/many/
most people/experts/
scientists/sceptics/
critics

are	claim/suggest/argue/feel that ...
	maintain/believe/point out/agree/hold that ...
	advocate (+ing/noun)/support the view that ...
	oppose the view that ...
	in favour of/against ...
	of the opinion that/convinced that ...
	opposed to ...

EXERCISE 1: Complete the following sentences using your own ideas.

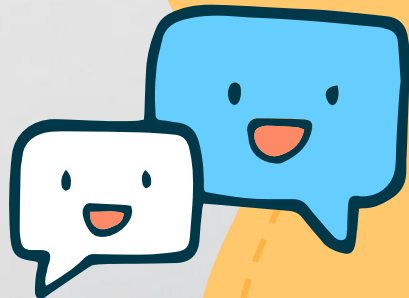
- 1 Public transport is often more convenient than taking one's car, **and is also**
- 2 Being able to speak a foreign language is very useful when abroad. **Furthermore,**
- 3 **Although** living abroad can be an interesting experience,
- 4 Being self-employed means that you are your own boss. **However,**
- 5 Exercise can help you to lose weight. **What is more,**
- 6 Experimenting on animals is cruel, **not to mention the fact that**
- 7 Package holidays are cheap. **On the other hand,**
- 8 **While** living alone can be lonely, it
- 9 Keeping up with fashion takes a lot of effort. **In addition,**
- 10 Watching television can be educational. **Nevertheless,**

EXERCISE 2: Write an essay using 150-180 words giving arguments for and against owning a mobile phone.

REVISION

Classify these topics into 3 types of essay we have learnt and choose one topic to write an essay of 150-180 words.

- 1 Road accidents claim far too many lives. What can governments and individuals do to reduce this problem?
- 2 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living at home past the age of eighteen.
- 3 "In today's large cities flats are preferable to houses." Do you agree?
- 4 "Computers will soon render books obsolete." Discuss.
- 5 Parents are often unaware of the difficulties and problems their teenage children face and are unable to help them. What could parents and children do to overcome the gulf between them?
- 6 Discuss the arguments for and against using live animals for scientific experimentation.
- 7 Many countries are in danger of losing their cultural identity on account of globalisation. Discuss this problem and say what could be done to avoid this.
- 8 "You can choose your friends but not your relatives." Do you feel that friends are more important than family?
- 9 "Capital punishment is never justified." What is your opinion?
- 10 "Too much money is being spent on space exploration while people are starving on Earth." Discuss.



THANKS!

Do you have any
questions?

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