

Opinion Essay



Warm up

- What gadgets do you have?
 - What gadgets would you like to have?
 - Does technology help students to study?
 - What gadgets help you to study? How?
 - Which gadget is the most helpful in studying in your opinion?
- **Ex. 1 p. 148 Match each of the statements with a reason.**

1. C 2. B 3. A



Opinion essays

are discursive essays in which you present your personal opinion on a particular topic.

Your opinion must be stated clearly and supported by justifications. You should also present opposing viewpoint in a separate paragraph.

Opinion essays also have a title and are normally written in a formal style. They can be found in the form of newspaper / magazine articles, school assignments etc.

Look at the structure of the paragraphs

The sentence giving argument is a topic sentence in the paragraph.

- ***Para 1 – Introduction***

- 2-3 sentences giving the topic of the essay with different words

- ***Para 2 – First viewpoint***

- 1 sentence giving your opinion
- 1 sentence giving the first argument + **1 sentence giving the reason or an example**
- 1 sentence adding one more argument + **1 sentence giving the reason or an example**
- 1 sentence adding the third argument (**it is possible without examples**) (all together about 6-7 sentences)



- *Para 3 – Opposite viewpoint*

- 1 sentence giving the opposing argument + **1 sentence giving the reason or an example**
- 1-2 other arguments (**with or without examples**) (all together about 3-4 sentences)

- *Para 4 – Restating your opinion*

- 3-4 sentences in which you explain why you disagree with the opposing opinion and give one more reason to support your point of view.

- *Para 5 – Conclusion*

- 2-3 sentences in which you express both opinions in other words and stress that although we should consider everything you cannot agree with the opposing point of view
- (**all together about 16-18 sentences in the essay**)



Introduction

should explain or illustrate the topic

- It is popular believe that....
- People often claim that....
- Some people argue that....
- It is often suggested that....
- Many people are convinced that....

Words to explain your opinion

- My opinion is that...
- I (strongly) believe
- I (completely) agree / disagree that
- I agree / disagree to a certain extent that ...
- In my opinion / view, ...
- The way I see it, ...
- It seems to me that...
- To my mind, ...
- I (do not) agree that ...
- As far as I am concerned, ...
- I am totally against...



Linkers

We use linking words to connect ideas in the text. There are different types of linkers that we use in different places and for various purposes.

Purpose	Linkers
To list points:	To begin with, Firstly, First of all, To start with, On the one hand
To add more points:	Secondly, thirdly, in addition, also, moreover, furthermore, what is more,
To introduce opposing viewpoints:	Although, In contrast, Apart from, while, However, On the other hand, though,
To introduce examples / reasons:	For example, for instance, such as, since as a result, in particular, because, therefore,
To conclude:	To sum up, All things considered, Lastly, all in all, Finally

Grammar and lexical structures

- In the opinion essay you cannot use contractions:

e.g. Instead of **it's** write **it is**.

- No informal language, idioms or phrasal verbs!
- Use more adjectives and synonyms.

e.g. pupils – teenagers – schoolchildren – boys and girls

beautiful – magnificent – pretty – nice

wonderful – amazing – fantastic – fabulous

big – huge – great – enormous

equipment – supplies

device – gadget

unhealthy – bad – harmful

- In the opinion essays people often use Present Simple Active and Present Simple Passive. **e.g.:** *It is often argued that...*
- **Conditionals** make your essay more mature and well-grounded.

Students should not be allowed to bring their mobile phones to school.

- What type of text would you write?
 - Who would read it?
 - What style would you write it in?
 - Which tenses would you use?
 - What points might you make? Read the essay and check.
 - **Ex. 3 p. 148-149** match the paragraphs (1-5) in the text to the correct description (A-E).
- A. Restate the writer's opinion **5**
 - B. Introduce the topic & opinion **1**
 - C. First viewpoint & reasons, examples **2**
 - D. Opposing viewpoint ('s) **4**
 - E. Second viewpoint & reasons, examples **3**

- **Example: ex. 9 p. 150**

The topic: There should be more ICT and fewer Art and Music lessons in schools.

A: ICT is more useful in life than Art and Music

B: ICT skills are essential for students' future careers

C: There is more to life than technology

Agree

Disagree

2. Technology will continue to advance and we will become increasingly dependent on computers.

3. Art and Music have little or no practical use.

4. ICT skills are one of the basic requirements for employment in any company these days.

5. A knowledge of ICT is essential for many everyday tasks such as using the Internet to compare prices of products or shop online.

1. Subjects such as Art and Music help to develop balanced individuals

6. Art and Music encourage creativity and imagination

Now your turn!

- 1. In the recent years computers have become an essential part of our life. Although some people think that there is too much harm in using them. Give your opinion about this.**
- 2. There is an opinion that we no longer need libraries – we can just download books from the Internet. What do you think about it?**
 - Write about 200 – 250 words**
 - Do not forget to write 5 paragraphs**