

1. Opinion Essay

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| Introduction | Restate the topic as a general issue that needs to be addressed. State your opinion. |
| Main Body [Version I: only your opinion] | §1. 1 st aspect of the issue. Start with a clear topic sentence. Use appropriate linkers. §2. 2 nd aspect of the issue. Start with a clear topic sentence. Use appropriate linkers. |
| Main Body [Version II: mention the opposing view] | §1. Your opinion. Start with a clear topic sentence. Use appropriate linkers. §2. The opposing view. Analyse the opposing view and explain why it is wrong . |
| Conclusion | Summarise your view. Leave the readers with a thought provoking idea. |

1. Society is in great need of organs to be transplanted to people who might die otherwise.

What do you think of organs donor and **what should we do** to sensitize many people to do this?
(source: '98-'99)

(a combination of **opinion** and **suggestion**)

2. One important role of the education system is to prepare young people for the world of work. Some people believe that schools should do more to teach children skills which will help them to find a job or which will be useful in the workplace. What do **you think**? Discuss, giving specific examples to support your point of view. (source: On the Move)

(clearly personal **opinion** – version II: refuting)

3. The media are hugely influential in many countries. People form opinions and make decisions on a wide range of issues, from the most important to the most trivial, based on what they have seen on TV, read online or in newspapers, or heard on the radio.

Given this, some people believe that there should be more control over what can be broadcast or published. Others believe that having the right to free speech is more important to society.

Should there be more censorship of the media? **Discuss your views**. (source: On the Move)

(clearly personal **opinion** – version II: refuting)

Some people are worried about the negative impact advertising may have. They believe vulnerable people are being driven to spend money they don't have on products they don't need. In their view, there should be far less advertising in the media, and there should be stricter laws controlling the content of ads. What do you think? Discuss your views. (source: On the Move)

2. For & Against Essay

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| Introduction | Restate the topic as a general issue that needs to be addressed. (Do not state your opinion here) |
| Main Body | <p>§1. Negative aspects of the issue. Start with a clear topic sentence. Use appropriate linkers</p> <p>§2. Positive aspects of the issue. Start with a clear topic sentence. Use appropriate linkers</p> |
| Conclusion | Repeat the two aspects and express your opinion. <i>Considering all the above, it is clear that... outweigh the...</i> |

1. Some very talented amateur athletes become professional when they are 13 or 14.
What are the **advantages and disadvantages** of becoming a professional athlete early in life?
Provide **examples**. (source: '97-'98)

(the 'examples' add a narrative element in this pros & cons essay)

2. Public art (paintings, statues, monuments) and the qualities that make it good or bad is a hotly debated issue. There are many **controversies** on what designs are chosen for public display.
What kind of works of art should become public? **Discuss** and give examples. (source: '03-'04)

(Discuss= means, **examine objectively** what people find controversial about public art – You may express your personal view in the conclusion but the main focus of the essay is the impartial presentation of the controversies)

3. Advances in genetic engineering allow scientists to produce enhanced and disease-resistant plant seeds which could help fight hunger in developing countries or reduce the use of harmful pesticides. However, some environmentalists worry that genetically modified crops could end up harming the people that consume them. They support government bans on the growth and sale of GM foods. Discuss the **advantages and disadvantages** of genetically modified foods.

(source: On the Move)

(clearly for and against)

4. Many internet users now rely on blogs to find out about what is happening in the world. What are the **advantages and disadvantages** of getting news in this way rather than from traditional news sources? Discuss your views, giving reasons and examples to support your opinions.

(source: On the Move)

(you have to examine the question objectively
– but you must also state your PERSONAL OPINION at the end)

3. Cause and/or Effect Essay

Read the title carefully and see whether you need to analyse the causes or the effects or both.

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|--------------|---|
| Introduction | Restate the topic as a general issue that needs to be examined. Mention whether you will focus on causes, effects or both |
| Main Body | <p>§1. 1st cause/effect. State in the topic sentence whether you will focus on a cause or an effect. If it is a cause talk about the deeper roots behind this reason. If it is an effect show the further implications of this phenomenon</p> <p>§2. repeat the same pattern.</p> <p>§3. (If it is required) repeat the same pattern</p> |
| Conclusion | Summarise what you have said. Leave the readers with a thought provoking idea. |

1. Every year consumers are injured using products (food, cosmetics, appliances) that seem to be safe but aren't. **Who should be responsible** for making sure that products are safe to use: the consumer, the producer, the government, or someone else? Discuss providing support of your point of view. (source: '96-'97)

(Discuss the **causes** of the injuries)

2. Changes in the political organization of various countries in Eastern Europe have had an **impact** on surrounding countries. Discuss how these changes have **affected** your country or local community. Limit your discussion in a single economic, political or social issue. (source: '97-'98)

(Discuss the **effects** of the changes)

3. Some very successful professional performers (singers, actors, athletes, dancers) continue to work after their skills begin to decline, even though they don't need more money. **Why** do you think they continue working while others stop early, when they are still at the peak? Give reasons for your point of view. (source: '99-'00)

(Discuss the **causes** of this attitude)

4. Many universities have distance-learning programs, which allow students to take classes at home via TV or the Internet rather than attend classes at some capital location. What **impact**, if any, has distance learning had in your country? Discuss providing examples. (source: '99-'00)

(Discuss the **effects** of this distance-learning)

4. Problem Solving Essay

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| Introduction | Restate the topic as a general issue that needs to be addressed. Mention the problem and tell that solutions do exist. |
| Main Body [Version I] | §1. Analyse the problem: Aspects of the problem and negative consequences. §2,3. Provide the solutions. Break it into 2 or 3 paragraphs. Each paragraph is devoted to one solution. Show how things will be better if you put this solution into practice. |
| Main Body [Version II] | §1. 1 st aspect of the problem and its negative consequences. Possible solutions and its positive results. §2. 2 nd aspect of the problem and its negative consequences. Possible solutions and its positive results. §3. repeat the same pattern if it is required. |
| Conclusion | Express the confidence that if the solutions are implemented the problem will be solved. |

1. Researches agree that watching TV affects children behavior.

If you were a parent **what limits**, if any, would you place on your children’s TV watching?

Give examples. (source: ‘04-’05)

(Provide **solutions** to the problem of TV watching by kids)

2. An increasing number of children are suffering from stress-related disorders. Children have to cope with hectic schedules packed with extra-curricular activities in order to better prepare for the competitive world of adults. How can the parents help their kids have a balanced lifestyle that will combine academic commitments with leisure activities? Support your views with examples.

(Make some **recommendations** on how to find a healthy balance)

3. High levels of immigration can have both positive and negative effects on the host country In your opinion, what are the best ways to welcome and assimilate immigrants into society? How would this approach maximize the benefits and minimize the disadvantages of immigration? Discuss your views, providing reasons and examples to support your opinions.

(Make some **recommendations** and show the positive results)

5. Narrative / Descriptive Essay

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| Introduction | Restate the topic as a general issue that needs to be addressed. |
| Main Body | §1. Approach the topic as a general issue. §2,3. Narrate your personal example. Break it into 2 or 3 paragraphs. Before the main event – After the main event. |
| Conclusion | Discuss the general influence of this specific event. |

1. Most people believe that laws exist to protect people and should not be broken. Nevertheless, some people may break the law at some time for what they think are good reasons.

Describe a situation that you think breaking the law is justified. (source: '96-'97)

(You need to **narrate** a specific event)

2. Your grandmother left you in her will four (4) things to choose from:

- an old family photograph in a beautiful frame
- something written by her (a diary or a book)
- material goods like a car or jewelry
- money.

Explain why you would choose one of the four. (source: '98-'99)

(You need to **describe** a specific option and give your **opinion**)

3. There have been many advances in medicine over the past century.

Write ONE such invention / procedure / drug that you believe has been especially significant.

What effects (positive and/or negative) has it had in society? Give examples. (source: '04-'05)

(You need to **describe** a specific option and present its **effects**)

4. Traveling has always been a much-desired pursuit for people. Describe your most memorable journey and explain why it has been indelible in your memory.

(You need to **narrate** a specific occasion)

Mixed format

1. Tourism can be a **double-edged sword**, bringing benefits to local people while at the same time damaging the local environment and culture. **What can be done** by governments, tour operators and tourists themselves to maximize the positive effects of tourism and to minimize the downside? Discuss the different opinions, giving examples and reasons to support **your views**.

(source: On the Move)

(you need to present **pros & cons** and then make **recommendations**)

2. It has been suggested that all teenagers in your country should be required to perform five hours of unpaid work each week with organizations that help the local community. This work would be in addition to their normal schoolwork and homework. What is **your opinion** of this plan? What are its **advantages and disadvantages**? Discuss the different opinions, giving examples and reasons to support your views.

(source: On the Move)

(you need to examine the **pros & cons** and then make **your recommendations** on the best course of action)

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