

**Code:** Model Composition 2a

**Type:** Essay / Article: Expressing your personal opinion

**Topic:** “Has Christmas lost its true spirit?”

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(General statement and your opinion)

Many people think that Christmas has lost its true spirit and it has turned into a commercial anniversary. I fully agree with this view.

(Your first argument + 3 to 4 sentences to support it)

First of all, instead of spending time we spend money for the ones we love. It is a fact that we spend too much during Christmas holidays. Most of us fall into the gift-buying trap. We feel the need to buy expensive presents in order to express our love for friends and relatives. But is this really the most precious thing we can offer? Isn't it better to gather around a dinner table and discuss and sing and laugh without having to spend a fortune on impressive gifts?

(Your second argument + 3 to 4 sentences to support it)

Moreover, we could offer half of the money we spend on presents to people who are really in need. We have to think of the unemployed parents who can not support their families or the homeless immigrants who starve to death. If we gave to all those people half of the money we spend on glossy gifts then we could alleviate their pain.

(Summarize what you said before)

In conclusion, I strongly believe that we must re-examine the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas must be a time of giving and forgiving and another chance of getting and forgetting.

(200 words)

**Useful phrases for opinion essays:**

- It is often said that...
- Many people claim
  - think
  - believe
  - support that...
- From a personal point of view...
  - a political point of view...
  - a financial point of view...
- In my view...
- It is my firm belief that...
- I strongly believe that..

**Linkers to add more points (και, επιπλέον, επίσης)**

First (of all)	Moreover
Second	Furthermore
Third	What is more
Next	In addition to this
Then	Needless to say that
Finally	To make matters worse

**Linkers to show contrast (όμως, ωστόσο, παρόλα αυτά)**

Although	However
Even though	Nevertheless
Though	Nonetheless
Despite (the fact that)	
In spite of (the fact that)	

**Linkers to show result (επομένως, κατά συνέπεια)**

Therefore	As a result
Thus	As a consequence