



WRITING FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY

For-and-against essay requires the writer to discuss both sides (advantages/positives and disadvantages/negatives) of an issue or argument impartially. The tone is generally neutral and objective. It emphasizes presenting both sides of the argument fairly and impartially. The aim is to provide a comprehensive overview for readers to make their own informed decision. Typically, the conclusion summarizes both sides and may offer a balanced resolution or suggestion.

FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

STEPS OF WRITING FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY

STEP 1. PREWRITING

It is an important step in the writing process. Here you choose what to write about and you begin to think of and jot down ideas. For the essay, the prewriting step involves planning the key points you want to make and the supporting evidence or examples you'll use.

STEP 2. WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT

THE INTRODUCTION: The introductory paragraph in a for-and-against essay contains three parts:

FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY

- Introduction
 - Opening Strategy
 - Background Information
 - Thesis Statement (present the topic and give both sides of the argument **WITHOUT GIVING YOUR OPINION**) (e.g. There are both advantages and disadvantages to)

a. An opening strategy that attracts the interest of the reader. Many writers begin with an interesting or surprising fact or a question.

b. Background Information is about the topic of the for-and-against essay to help the reader understand and become interested in the topic. Before you begin, ask yourself, 'what does the reader need to know about the topic? What information do I need to provide? Do not give too many details. Because you will develop or explain your topic with more detailed information in the body of the essay.

c. A Thesis Statement As you learned previously, a thesis statement presents the controlling (main) idea of the entire essay. It responds directly to the assignment and presents an idea that will be developed in the essay.



It is important to develop a clear and concise thesis statement that summarizes the main advantages and disadvantages you will be discussing in your essay. This statement should be placed in your introduction to the end of the paragraph.

A successful thesis statement:

- presents the controlling idea of the entire essay
- responds to the assignment
- contains an idea that the writer will develop (explain) and support

EXAMPLE:

Imagine someone not using a mobile phone in today's tech-savvy world. It might seem odd, but it raises important questions. Do these devices truly make life easier, or do they come with hidden problems? Almost everyone owns a mobile phone nowadays and people without a mobile phone are thought of as eccentric. They have a lot of features that make our life easier. However, there are both numerous benefits and pitfalls that come with mobile phones.

THE BODY

The body of a for-and-against essay consists of two paragraphs in which you present and develop ideas to support your thesis statement. It is important to develop or explain your ideas clearly and to support them with specific details, such as facts and examples, to convince the reader to share your opinion.

Each paragraph should focus specific advantage(s) and disadvantage(s).

BODY PARAGRAPH 1 (arguments for advantages/positives)

- Topic Sentence
 - *Controlling Ideas*
- Development and Support
 - *Examples*
 - *Facts*
 - *Explanations*

BODY PARAGRAPH 2 (arguments for disadvantages/negatives)

- Topic Sentence
 - *Controlling Ideas*
- Development and Support
 - *Examples*
 - *Facts*
 - *Explanations*

Writing Topic Sentences

Each body paragraph usually begins with a topic sentence. These sentences often rephrase and build on some information from the thesis statement. In a for-and-against essay, each topic sentence can present a specific advantage why the writer holds on a particular view or belief, a specific disadvantage why the



writer does not hold on a particular view or belief. Then the rest of the body paragraph develops and supports that advantages and disadvantages with details, such as facts, examples, and explanations. To introduce advantages and disadvantages or controlling ideas, you can use transition words. For example, you might use the listing-order transitions, such as *first(of all)*, *second (of all)*, *in addition* or *finally*.

EXAMPLE:

Topic Sentence 1: To start with, there are significant advantages that mobile phones bring into our lives.

OR

To start with, mobile phones have certain advantages due to various reasons.

Topic Sentence 2: On the other hand, there are many disadvantages of using mobile phones.

OR

On the other hand, many people believe that there are some disadvantages to mobile phones.

You can also use transition words that show the order of importance of your advantages and disadvantages, for example, your topic sentences might include words such as *main*, *key*, *primary*, *another advantage/disadvantage*, *also important*, or *equal importance*.

Developing a Body Paragraph

As you learned in other types of essays, the topic sentence of each body paragraph must be developed and supported with facts, explanations, and examples.

In academic writing **it is essential that you credit the source of the ideas**, that is, the person or text you are talking the ideas from. A common way to refer to a source is with *according to*. You can also use several other expressions to name your source and include any relevant identifying information.

THE CONCLUSION

A for-and-against essay ends with a concluding paragraph that returns to the thesis statement. In the concluding paragraph of this essay, writers return to the idea in the thesis statement in order to leave the reader with a strong impression and clear idea about the topic.

Conclusion

- Restated thesis
- summarized the main advantages and disadvantages presented in the essay
- leaving the reader with a final thought or call for a new action

Here are the strategies you might want to use to end your advantage essay:

- restate the thesis statement
- summarize the main advantages and disadvantages you presented in the essay.
- leave the reader with a final thought or call for a new action.

Remember to use persuasive language, provide compelling evidence, and maintain a logical flow throughout your essay to provide your reader with the advantages and disadvantages to the issue you're presenting.



STEP 3. REVISING AND EDITING

Revising and editing work is an essential part of writing process. This is your opportunity to be sure that your essay has all the important pieces and that it is clear.

Revising and Editing Checklist:

Did you ...

- express the controlling idea of the whole essay in your thesis statement?
- give enough essential background in your introduction?
- make the purpose of your essay clear?
- present main advantages and disadvantages in each body paragraph?
- give enough supporting facts, explanations, and examples?
- restate the controlling idea of the essay in your conclusion?
- use an effective concluding strategy?
- connect the parts of your essay with transition words?
- use correct verb forms, punctuation, and spelling?
- use collocations and other words correctly?
- give your essay a good title?

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES TO BE USED

Here are some useful words and phrases that you can use in an advantage essay to effectively present your ideas:

to list advantages and disadvantages:

The main advantage of ... is that ...

An important advantage of ... is that ...

Another advantage is that ...

Another point in favour of ... is that ...

Another negative point is that ...

to add more points:

In addition,

Furthermore,

to introduce examples:

For example,

For instance,

to introduce contrasting points:

On the other hand,

However,

Although



to introduce the conclusion:

To sum up,

In conclusion,

SAMPLE FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY 1

TASK: Write a well-organized for-and-against essay about the use of using mobile phones.

USING MOBILE PHONES

Imagine someone not using a mobile phone in today's tech-savvy world. It might seem odd, but it raises important questions. Do these devices truly make life easier, or do they come with hidden problems? Almost everyone owns a mobile phone nowadays and people without a mobile phone are thought of as eccentric. They have a lot of features that make our life easier. However, there are both numerous benefits and pitfalls that come with mobile phones.

To start with, there are significant advantages that mobile phones bring into our lives. First of all, they are portable. Therefore, it is convenient for us to carry mobile phones and keep in contact with others at any time. For example, when we are outdoors, where there are no telephones, we can use our handy mobile phone. Secondly, mobile phones enable us to call for help during times of emergency. For instance, if you are involved in an accident or if you witness a crime taking place, you can call the police immediately using your mobile phone. Last of all, mobiles are not only a great time-saving device, but they are a source of entertainment, too. They have several functions such as MP3 players, radios and games.

On the other hand, there are many disadvantages of using mobile phones. Although mobile phones are convenient, they can be lost easily since they are quite small. Talking on mobile phones can also be expensive because we need to pay high roaming costs when we are overseas. In addition, mobiles are believed by some people to give out radioactive waves and some scientists believe that this radioactivity can cause brain tumours or damage our ears. Finally, people can easily become addicted to mobile phones since they are now multi-purposed with different functions.

In conclusion, mobile phones are indispensable tools that we cannot live without, but we should avoid abusing them. Therefore, we should think carefully about the advantages and drawbacks before purchasing a mobile phone and ask ourselves why we need a mobile phone and whether we will be able to use it responsibly.

(347 words)



SAMPLE FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAY 2

TASK: Write a well-organized for-and-against essay about the video platforms like Netflix or HBO.

VIDEO PLATFORMS: NETFLIX or HBO

Everyone knows about streaming platforms. Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, HBO, and the list goes on. It's true that they offer their audiences numerous advantages, but maybe they are not for everyone, and before you sign up for one of them, you should also consider their disadvantages.

The main advantage of streaming video services is that you can take your favourite shows and movies anywhere, you just need a phone or tablet and an internet connection, and you are good to go. Another advantage is the great availability; you can access almost any show or film you can think of, and you don't have to wait a week to see another episode of your favourite series. Furthermore, if you are learning a language, you can easily find movies in the original version and decide whether you want to add subtitles.

However, not everything is positive about these platforms; there are also some disadvantages that we should consider. An important disadvantage is that if you go somewhere with a poor internet connection or with no internet connection, then you'd better go straight to bed or read a book because you're not going to watch your series. In addition, although you can watch almost anything, there are significant limitations. Not everything you want to watch is there; for instance, if you love old movies, you will probably not find what you are looking for, and if you have Netflix, forget about watching Game of Thrones. Another negative point is that since so many films and series episodes are available, you may end up sleeping less than you need.

In conclusion, streaming video platforms are great, and they are the present and future of TV entertainment, but people who want to use one of these platforms should know that not everything is positive about these services.

302 words

WRITING TASK

Choose one of the topics below to write a well-organized for-and-against essay within 250-300 words.

1. Advancements in Technology
2. Animal Testing
3. Remote Work

taken and adapted