



WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY

An opinion essay does not necessarily focus on persuading the reader. It aims to present and support a personal perspective in a more balanced way compared to a persuasive essay.

It allows the writer to express personal opinions while still acknowledging alternative perspectives. However, the emphasis may be more on the author's viewpoint.

While engaging the audience, the emphasis is on sharing personal perspectives without necessarily pushing the reader to adopt the same viewpoint.

An opinion essay is an essay where the writer forms an opinion about a topic, often in the form of an answer to a question and uses factual and anecdotal evidence to support that opinion.

STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED

When you write an opinion essay, you must say what you think about a topic and try to share your point of view on that topic. To do that, you should first introduce the topic and state your opinion. Then, you should give two or three reasons that support your view, and finally, you should write a conclusion where you summarize your arguments and repeat your opinion using different words.

Plan your ideas

The first thing you need to do is decide whether you agree with the question or statement and then make a list of two or three reasons that support your opinion, including some facts and/or examples. Here is an example:

Top sports players are paid too much.

Opinion: I disagree.

Reason 1: Their careers are very short.

Fact 1: their careers usually end in their 30's.

Fact 2: sometimes, they are even shorter because of injuries.

Reason 2: They lose their privacy.

Fact 1: Constantly followed by journalists and fans.

Fact 2: Now, everyone uses their phones to take photos and publish them.

Organize your essay

An opinion essay has three parts:

Opinion Essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Introduction➤ Body Paragraphs<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Arguments or Reasons that support your view➤ Conclusion



Introduction: Paragraph 1

In an opinion essay, the writer presents a clear and concise thesis statement that expresses his/her position on the topic. This thesis statement serves as the central argument throughout the essay. The writer then supports his/her viewpoint with logical reasoning, evidence, examples, and persuasive language.

Introduce the topic and give your opinion. Say whether you agree or disagree with the statement or question. It can be a good idea to use a question to grab the reader's attention. Check the two examples below:

Nowadays, top sportspeople, such as football players or basketball players, have huge salaries, and this promotes a lot of debate. However, I don't think they earn too much. In my opinion, their salaries are fair.

How often have you heard a friend or a colleague complain about the excessive salaries of professional sports players? But do they really earn too much? I don't think they earn too much. I truly believe their salaries are fair.

Arguments: Paragraph 2

Give the first argument to support your opinion. Include at least two facts or examples to show that your reason makes sense. Check this example:

Firstly, Despite all the money professional sports players earn every year, they work for only a few years – they usually retire when they are in their thirties. In addition, many of them have to retire earlier because they get injured and have to stop playing.

Arguments: Paragraph 3

Give more reasons and again provide examples, facts or supporting ideas. For example:

Secondly, sports stars are celebrities, and all celebrities lose their privacy. Journalists, paparazzi and fans follow them everywhere, and they want to get pictures or talk to them all the time. Moreover, now anyone can take photos with their mobile phone and publish them at any moment on their social media accounts.



Conclusion. Paragraph 4

Summarize your ideas and repeat your opinion.

To sum up, I believe top professional sports players have the salaries they deserve because their careers are short and because during those years, their personal lives are affected by their popularity.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Useful language
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sequencing your text Use connectors to sequence and structure your ideas: <i>Firstly/First of all, ...</i> <i>Secondly/Thirdly, ...</i> <i>Finally, ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adding more points or ideas Use connectors to introduce additional ideas: <i>In addition, ...</i> <i>Moreover, ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Giving your opinion Expressions you can use to say what you think: <i>In my opinion, ...</i> <i>In my view, ...</i> <i>I think/feel that ...</i> <i>I (truly) believe that ...</i> <i>I am convinced that ...</i> <i>I agree that ...</i> <i>I disagree with/about ...</i> <i>I firmly support the idea that ...</i> <i>I am of the opinion that ...</i> <i>It is my contention that ...</i> <i>I strongly believe that ...</i> <i>It is clear to me that ...</i> <i>From my perspective ...</i> <i>I am convinced that ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introducing examples Use connectors to introduce examples: <i>For example, ...</i>



<i>For instance, ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressing contrast, purpose and reason <p>You may also need or want to use some connectors of contrast, purpose and reason. Contrast: <i>although, however, despite, etc.</i> Purpose: <i>to, in order to, so that, etc.</i> Reason: <i>because (of), since, due to, etc.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing your conclusion <p>Use connectors to introduce the conclusion: <i>In conclusion, ...</i> <i>To sum up, ...</i></p>

STUDENT SAMPLE ESSAY 1

TASK: In some countries, an increasing number of people are suffering from health problems as a result of eating too much fast food. It is therefore necessary for governments to impose a higher tax on this kind of food. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Nowadays, more and more people are affected by health issues such as diabetes and heart disease which are linked to overconsumption of cheap, mass-produced food. Some people believe the only solution is to make fast food less affordable by taxing it highly. Despite the severity of the problem, I think this is quite wrong because increasing the tax on fast food would unfairly penalise people and may not necessarily bring about the desired health benefits.

First, fast food is about more than just nutrition. Many teenagers spend money on fast food not because they need to eat out but because this is how they socialise. Fast-food restaurants provide a safe, convenient place for young people to meet friends. For another group, low-income families, fast food can provide an inexpensive treat for their children. Denying people a small pleasure in life could affect their social lives or happiness.

Another important point is that if the reason for taxing fast food is to reduce obesity, it may be ineffective. It is true that fast food is high in sugar, salt and fat, all of which cause weight gain and are detrimental to our health. However, we also know that there are other factors which contribute to the risk of obesity, such as lack of exercise and inappropriate portion size. While home-cooked food is generally healthy, this is not always the case. I personally know a family that used to eat high-fat, home-cooked food in enormous portions. They all suffered from health problems due to obesity.

On the other hand, if fast food were taxed and became expensive, people would be forced to seek out healthier options. In addition, food producers would have an incentive to provide healthier foods. However, there is likely to be resistance from consumers and producers who want to have a wider choice.

To conclude, although imposing higher tax on fast food could have some positive effects, these would be outweighed by the drawbacks. For one thing, some sectors of society would feel victimised, and there is



also the fact that simply raising tax would not result in a much healthier society. What we really need is greater awareness of diet and cheaper healthy food.

STUDENT SAMPLE ESSAY 2

TASK: Can people learn a foreign language when they are young?

Work with your friend to provide suggestions to improve the essay where necessary:

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

In my view, people can greatly benefit from learning a foreign language when they are young. The early years of a person's life provide a unique window of opportunity for language acquisition, and this advantage should not be overlooked. This essay will outline the reasons why I believe that learning a foreign language at a young age is advantageous.

Firstly, young children have a remarkable ability to absorb new information effortlessly. Their developing brains are highly receptive to linguistic input, allowing them to acquire pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary with relative ease. Research shows that young learners have a greater capacity to grasp the subtle nuances of pronunciation, making them more likely to speak a foreign language with native-like fluency later in life.

Secondly, learning a foreign language at a young age enhances cognitive development. Studies have demonstrated that bilingual children often exhibit better problem-solving skills, enhanced creativity, and improved critical thinking abilities. Acquiring a second language early on promotes mental flexibility and adaptability, as learners are exposed to different cultural perspectives and modes of communication. These cognitive benefits can have a lasting impact on a child's academic performance and future success.

Furthermore, starting language learning early provides ample time for practice and mastery. Proficiency in a foreign language requires consistent effort and exposure, which can be more readily achieved during childhood. Young learners have the advantage of time, enabling them to develop strong language skills through continuous practice, immersion programs, and cultural experiences. By the time they reach adulthood, they will possess a solid foundation in the language, allowing them to communicate effectively in a globalized world.

Some may argue that learning a foreign language later in life can be equally successful. While it is true that adults can acquire new languages, they often face challenges such as accent reduction and adapting to unfamiliar grammatical structures. However, these difficulties are considerably reduced when language learning begins during childhood, capitalizing on the natural linguistic abilities of young learners.

In conclusion, learning a foreign language at a young age offers undeniable advantages. Children's receptive minds, cognitive benefits, and extensive practice contribute to linguistic proficiency and intercultural understanding. Seizing this early opportunity equips individuals with lifelong skills. Thus, prioritizing early foreign language education is crucial, allowing young learners to embrace languages and cultures.



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WRITING TASK

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

1. Share your perspective on how technology affects relationships, both positively and negatively.
2. Express your opinion on the importance and benefits of traveling for personal growth.
3. Should sharks be hunted for their internal organs and skin to make products for human health?

taken and adapted