

OPINION ESSAY

1.THE QUESTION

The first part of the question for an opinion essay will be a statement. You will then be asked to give your own opinion about the statement. Here is some typical wording that might be used:

- What is your opinion?
- Do you agree or disagree?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree?

AN EXAMPLE TEST QUESTION

Here's a question from a past test paper.

A big salary is much more important than job satisfaction.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

2. COMMON MISTAKES

These three errors are common in opinion essays.

- Not stating an opinion.
- Giving arguments for both views.
- Not supporting your opinion with clear reasons.



****Make sure that you don't change your opinion part way through the essay, and don't give reasons for the opposing view.**

3. ESSAY STRUCTURE



Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction to the topic○ Thesis Statement (giving your opinion)
Body paragraph 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Topic sentence – outline 1st reason for supporting this view○ Explanation – explain this idea○ Example – give an example or expand the idea
Body paragraph 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Topic sentence – outline 2nd reason for supporting this view○ Explanation – explain this idea○ Example – give an example or expand the idea
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Summarize opinion and key reasons

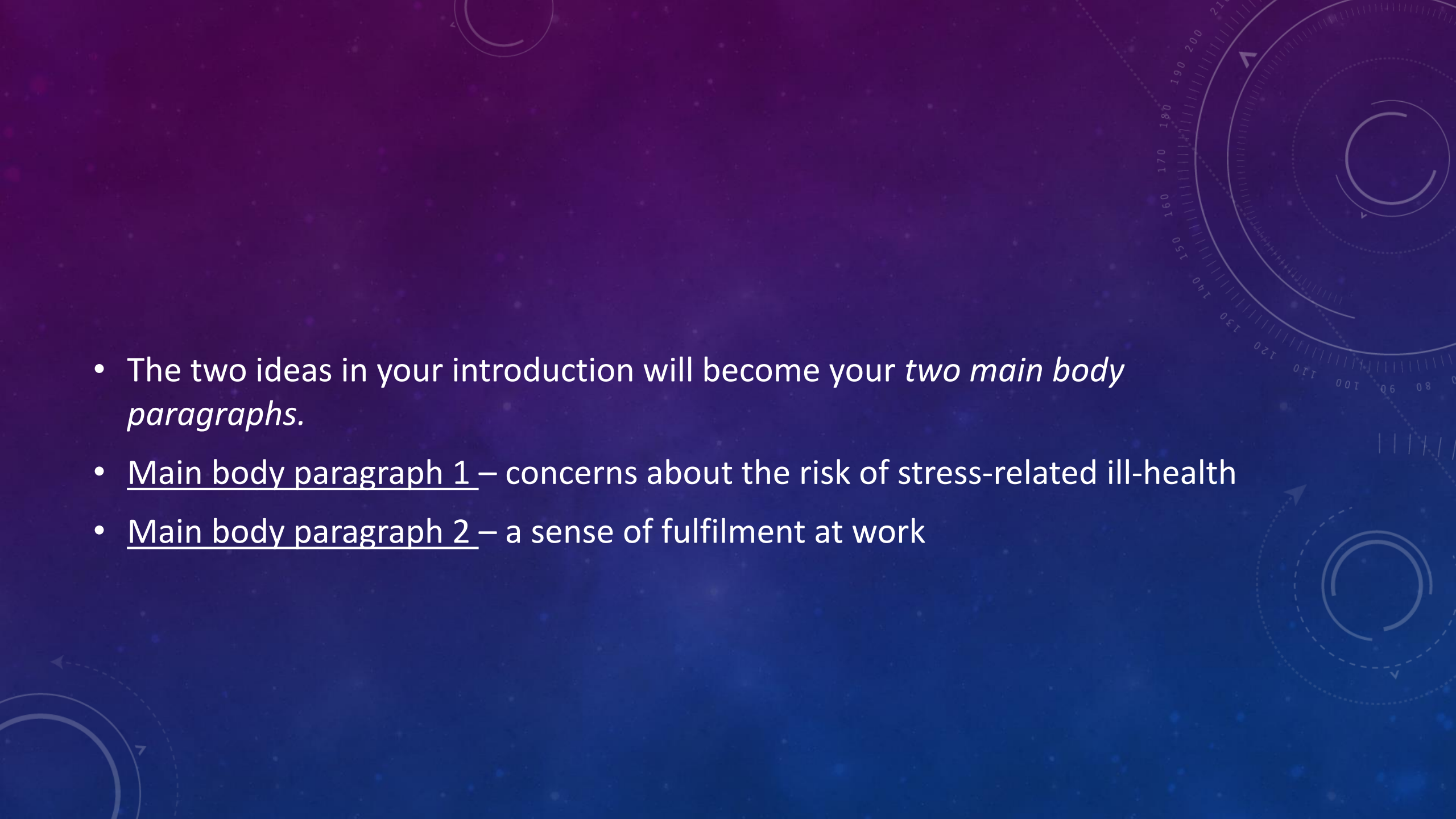
INTRODUCTION

- It is argued that earning lots of money has more significance to people than being content in their work. I totally disagree with that statement because I believe that people are increasingly concerned about the risk of stress-related ill-health frequently experienced by people in highly paid positions and they care more about feeling fulfilled at work.



This introduction achieves three important functions:

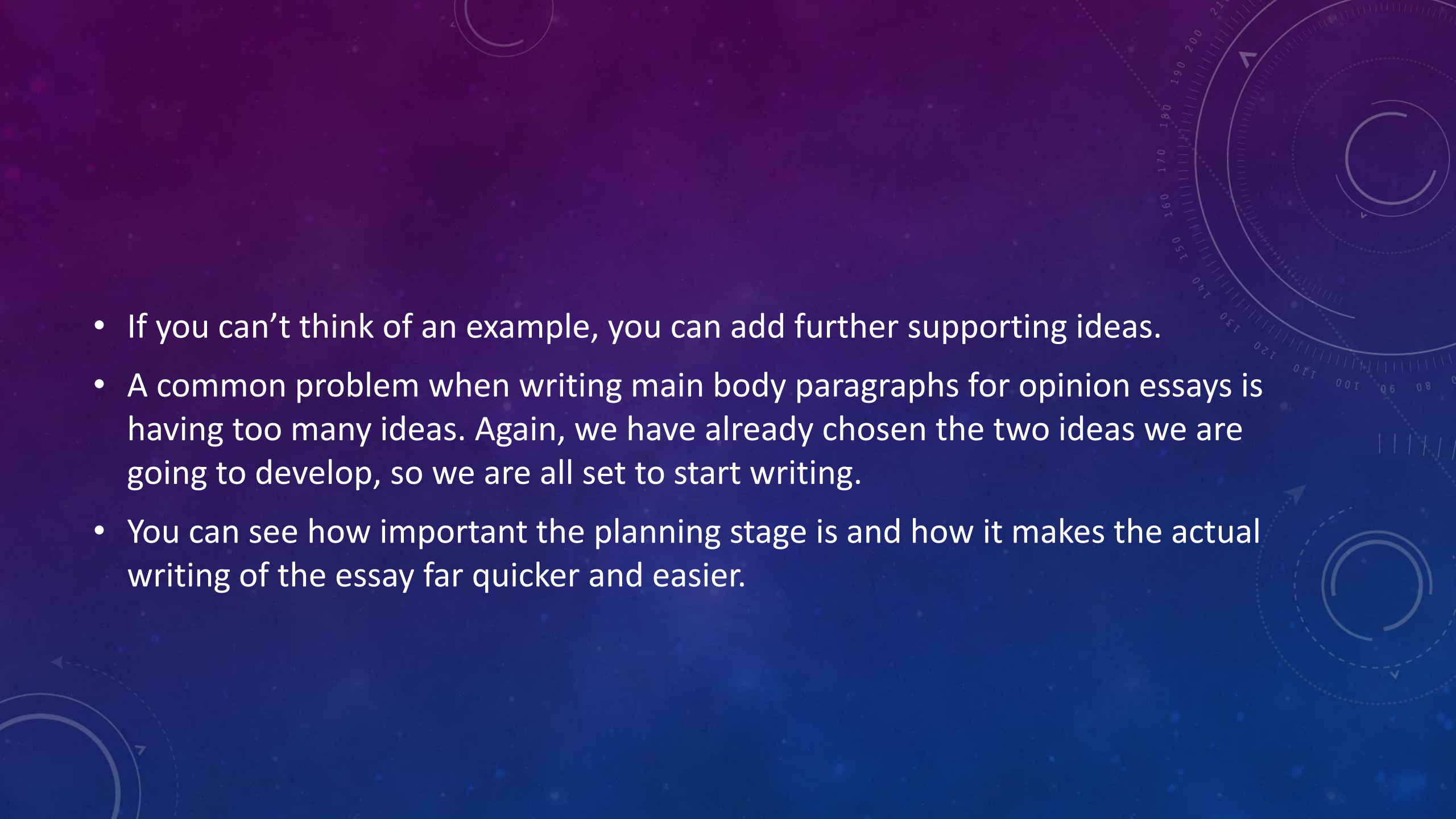
- It shows the examiner that you understand the question.
- It acts as a guide to the examiner as to what your essay is about.
- It also helps to keep you focused and on track as you write.

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- The two ideas in your introduction will become your *two main body paragraphs*.
 - Main body paragraph 1 – concerns about the risk of stress-related ill-health
 - Main body paragraph 2 – a sense of fulfilment at work

7.HOW TO WRITE MAIN BODY PARAGRAPHS

The structure of a good main body paragraph has 4 parts:

- Topic sentence
- Explanation(s) (Supporting Sentences)
- Example(s)
- Concluding sentence

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- If you can't think of an example, you can add further supporting ideas.
 - A common problem when writing main body paragraphs for opinion essays is having too many ideas. Again, we have already chosen the two ideas we are going to develop, so we are all set to start writing.
 - You can see how important the planning stage is and how it makes the actual writing of the essay far quicker and easier.

- The topic sentence summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.
- Main idea 1 – concerns about the risk of stress-related ill-health

Topic sentence:

MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Employees earning a large income are generally under significant mental and emotional pressure to perform well and achieve targets

- Next, we must write an explanation sentence. It expands on our first idea.

Explanation sentence 1:

- This causes many individuals to suffer high levels of stress which can result in both mental and physical health problems.

- **Finally, we add an example to support our main point. If you can't think of a real example, it's fine to make one up, as long as it's believable.**

Example sentence:

- **For example, some people boast about their huge salary but when the workload increases more, in the end, the stress becomes too great and ends with a nervous breakdown.**

Explanation sentence 2

- Job stress makes employees more prone to error, and poor work performance in the workplace as well.



Concluding Sentence:

- This may result in a regret that is being driven by the money.

THAT'S THE FIRST MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH IS COMPLETED.
HERE'S THE FINISHED PARAGRAPH.

- **Employees earning a large income are generally under significant mental and emotional pressure to perform well and achieve targets. This causes many individuals to suffer high levels of stress which can result in both mental and physical health problems. For example, some people boast about their huge salary but when the workload increases more, in the end, the stress becomes too great and ends with a nervous breakdown. Besides, job stress caused by the high salary makes employees more prone to error, and poor work performance in the workplace as well. This may result in a regret that is being driven by money.**

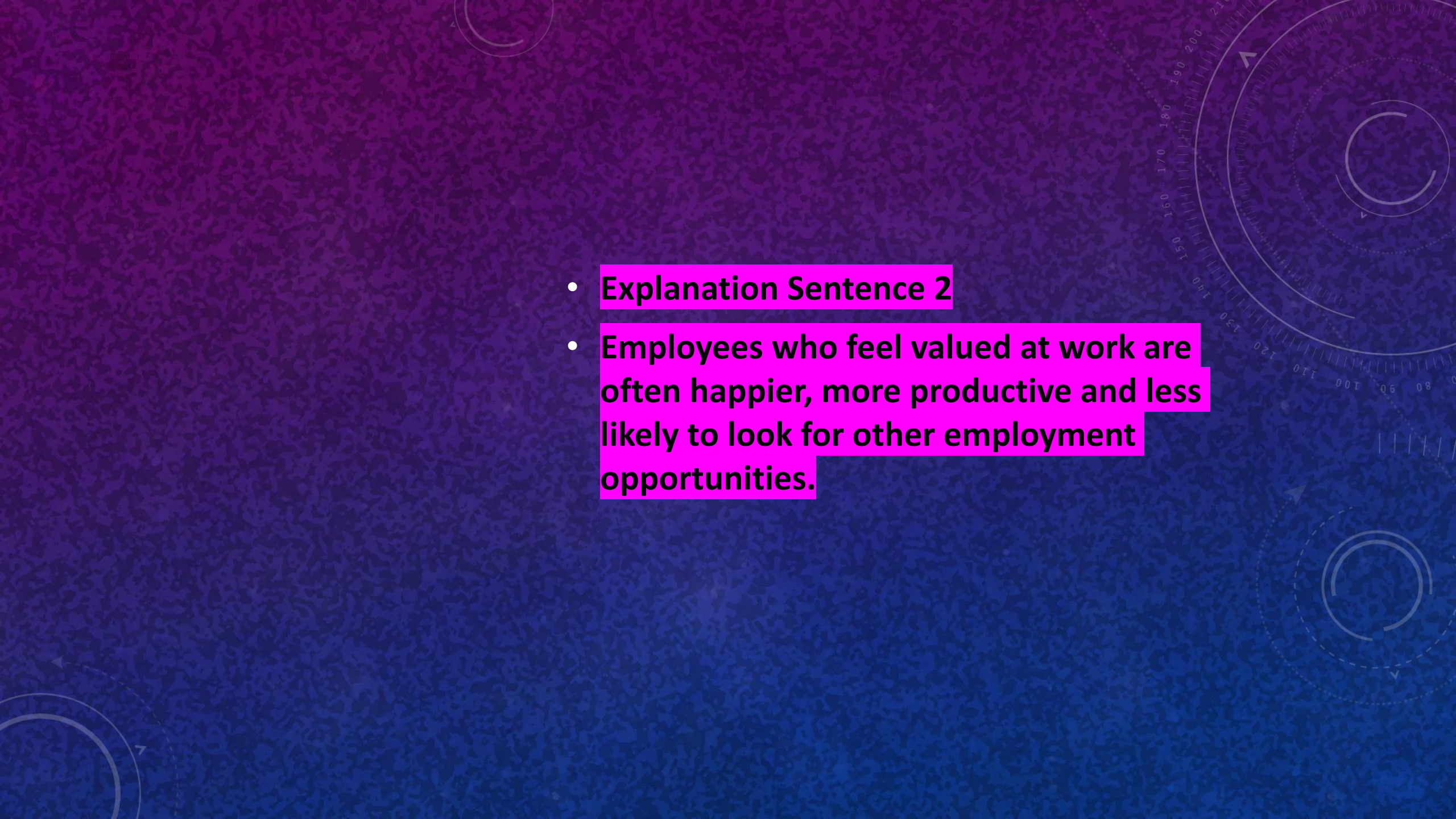
- Main idea 2 – Job satisfaction gives a sense of fulfilment.

MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH 2

- First, we write the topic sentence to summarize the main idea.
- **Topic sentence:**
- **Having a job that they enjoy doing, and in which they feel valued, is a major concern for most of the modern workforce.**

- **Explanation sentence:**
- **A significant number of people are giving up well-paid positions to do jobs that pay less but that they find more enjoyable and less stressful.**

- An example to support our main point.
- **Example sentence:**
- **For instance there are some people who left their profession because the workload had become too great and started working in totally different jobs from the previous ones such as working as a gardener.**

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- **Explanation Sentence 2**
 - **Employees who feel valued at work are often happier, more productive and less likely to look for other employment opportunities.**

- **Concluding Sentence:**
- **Those people feel really fulfilled in their new work and more relaxed and happy even though they earn far less money.**

THAT'S THE SECOND MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH COMPLETE.
HERE'S THE FINISHED PARAGRAPH.

- Having a job that they enjoy doing, and in which they feel valued, is a major concern for most of the modern workforce. First of all we see that a significant number of people are giving up well-paid positions to do jobs that pay less but that they find more enjoyable and less stressful. For instance, there are some people who left their profession because the workload had become too great and started working in totally different jobs from the previous ones such as working as a gardener. Also, employees who feel valued at work are often happier, more productive and less likely to look for other employment opportunities. In short, those people feel really fulfilled in their new work and more relaxed and content even though they earn far less money.

8.HOW TO WRITE A CONCLUSION

Conclusions to opinion essays should do two things:

- Summarize the main points
- State your opinion
- Add prediction or recommendation statement.

A good conclusion will:

- Neatly end the essay
- Link all your ideas together
- Sum up your argument or opinion
- Answer the question

You can start almost any final paragraph of an opinion essay with the words:

- In conclusion
- or
- To conclude

TO CREATE A GREAT CONCLUSION, YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO PARAPHRASE THE INTRODUCTION.

Introduction

- It is argued that earning lots of money has more significance to people than being content in their work. I totally disagree with that statement because I believe that people are increasingly concerned about the risk of stress-related ill-health frequently experienced by people in highly paid positions and they care more about feeling fulfilled at work.

Conclusion

- In conclusion, for a high percentage of the population, earning a substantial wage is less important than job satisfaction because of the negative effects of work-related stress and the desire to feel happy and fulfilled at work.