

A FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY

An essay is an academic formal piece of writing which describes, analyses or discusses a particular issue

The most common types are:

- Opinion essays: presents the writer's personal opinion of the topic, supporting this opinion with examples and reasons.
- For and against essays: it presents both sides of an issue in a balanced way. In the concluding paragraph you can say why you find one side more convincing than the other.

In this post, I'll guide you step by step to write a good for and against essay.

- Step 1. Tips and Guidelines +sample essay (pdf)
- Step 2. Presentation + sample essay
- Step 3. Using connectors of contrast
- Step 4. Using connectors of purpose
- Step 5. Write: 53 topics to write about.

TIPS AND GUIDELINES+ SAMPLE ESSAY

1. The first stage in writing is producing ideas. It's important to dedicate two or three minutes to carefully planning what you are going to say. Make a list of the points for and against. Remember that the key to writing a good balanced essay is to include as many arguments you disagree with as those you agree with. They should be noted impartially although in your conclusion you can say why you find one side more convincing than the other.
2. Producing and organising ideas is one thing. Shaping ideas and the organisation of your writing is another. But often the most difficult part is starting a first draft. Once you have your first draft pay attention to how you have organised the information into paragraphs and grouped ideas. Once this is done you can focus on expression. This means looking at sentence structure, tense usage and vocabulary. It's important to write clearly and economically. This can mean either rephrasing ideas in two sentences instead of one, or rewriting two longer sentences as one shorter sentence. So, go over your first draft, looking for ways of improving sentence structure, tense usage and vocabulary.
3. Organise your essay into three parts:
 - Introduction- Paragraph 1- Introduce the topic. The opening should engage the reader's interest and give a hint of what is to follow
 - Main Body- Normally you have two paragraphs. In Paragraph 2, you state your arguments for and in Paragraph 3, your arguments against.

- Conclusion – In paragraph 4 you refer back to the topic, summarize and here you can say why you find one side more convincing than the other
4. It's important that you begin each paragraph with a main idea and then develop this idea. For a new idea, begin a new paragraph.
 5. This is academic writing, so don't use informal style (no contractions, colloquial words, or emotional language)
 6. Remember to use a variety of structures and vocabulary adequate to your level.

USEFUL LINKING WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- To list points: Firstly, First of all, In the first place, To begin/start with, Secondly, Thirdly, Finally
- To list advantages: One/Another/A further/An additional (major) advantage of... is ...
The main/greatest/first advantage of... is ...
- To list disadvantages: One/Another/ A further/An additional (major) disadvantage/drawback of. The main/greatest/most serious disadvantage /drawback of... Another negative aspect of...
- To introduce points/arguments for or against: One (very convincing) point/argument in favour of/ against ... A further common criticism of... It could be argued/It is often claimed/It is suggested that ... It is widely argued/ believed that ... Some/many/most people/experts/scientist/criticsclaim/suggest/argue/ feel/maintain/believe/point out/agree/support the view that... oppose the view that... are in favour of/against... are of the opinion that/convinced that... are opposed to...
- To add more points to the same topic: in addition (to this), furthermore, moreover, besides, apart from, what is more, as well as, not to mention (the fact) that, also, /as well, both ... and
- To make contrasting points: on the other hand, however, still, yet, but, nevertheless, even so, although, though, even though, while, whereas, despite/in spite of
- To introduce examples: for example, for instance, such as, like, in particular, particularly, especially, This is (clearly) illustrated/shown by the fact that... One/A clear/striking/ typical example of (this)...
- To emphasise a point: clearly, obviously, naturally, needless to say
- To make general statements: as a (general) rule, generally, in general, in most cases
- To make partially correct statements: to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, in a way/sense, this is partly true (but)

- To explain/clarify a point: in other words, that is to say, this/which means that
- To express cause: owing to, due to (the fact that), because, as, since
- To express effect: therefore, as a result/consequence, consequently, so, for this reason.
- To express intention: to, so as to, in order to, so that, with the intention of (+ing)

Useful expressions and linking words/phrases: Conclusion expressing balanced considerations/opinion indirectly

In conclusion, On balance, All things considered, Taking everything into account /consideration, To conclude, To sum up, All in all, Finally/Lastly,	it can be said/claimed that it seems/appears that... .. it would seem that... .. it is likely/unlikely/possible that ... it is clear/obvious that... .. there is no/little doubt that ... it is true to say that it may be concluded/said that ... it is my belief/opinion that ... I (firmly) believe/feel/think that I am convinced that I am inclined to believe that ...
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Source: Writing Advanced by Ron White

Successful Writing Proficiency" by Virginia Evans

Should smoking be prohibited in Public Places?

Whatever smokers may tell you, smoking is an anti-social habit. While the smokers themselves may enjoy their cigarettes, their enjoyment often causes much discomfort around them. The time has come to forbid smoking in all public places.

- Paragraph 2 : arguments against

On the one hand, those who are against the prohibition of smoking- usually the smokers themselves-tend to claim this is a move against their personal liberty. They say that smokers form a large part of the population and that no one has the right to tell them where or when they can smoke. Moreover, they state that if their smoke annoys non-smokers, the non-smokers can always move to another (smoker-free) place

- Paragraph 3: arguments for

On the other hand, those who believe that smoking should be prohibited in public places say that it is not always possible to move away from smokers. What happens if a smoker lights up at the table next to you in your favourite restaurant? The most important factor for non-smokers is probably not the inconvenience- it is the health hazard from passive smoking. A non-smoker who spends a lot of time in a smoke-filled atmosphere is seriously endangering his or her health.

- Paragraph 4: Conclusion. Refer back to the topic and restate views.

In conclusion, it is obvious that health must come before personal pleasure. I strongly believe that governments should act to make smoking illegal in public places

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