

Opinion Essays
Mobile Phones in Schools



Our plan for the lesson

- **What will we do at the lesson?**
 - Work on the words
 - Do the test
 - Read the text
 - Learn the rules of essay writing
 - Write an essay
- **What should you learn at the lesson?**
 - The structure of the opinion essay
 - The linkers
 - The text

Your mark for the lesson:

Exercise – 10 points

'5' – 10 points

'4' – 8-9 points

'3' – 6-7 points



Good Luck!

Warming Up

- **Answer!**
- What gadgets do you have?
- What gadgets would you like to have?
- Does technology help students to study?
- What gadgets help you to study? How?
- Which gadget is the most helpful in studying in your opinion?
- **Ex. 1 p. 148 Match each of the statements with a reason.**

1. C 2. B 3. A



Theory

- An opinion essay presents our personal opinion on a particular topic.
- An opinion essay should contain:
 - A)** an introduction, in which we introduce the subject and state our opinion clearly.
 - B)** a main body, consisting of two or more paragraphs (each presenting a separate viewpoint supported by reasons / examples) and including a paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint.
 - C)** a conclusion in which we restate our opinion using different words.
- Opinion essays also have a title and are normally written in a formal style. They can be found in the form of newspaper / magazine articles, school assignments etc.



Think on the topic!

- **Students should not be allowed to bring their mobile phones to school.**
- What type of text would you write?
- Who would read it?
- What style would you write it in?
- Which tenses would you use?
- What points might you make? Read the essay and check.
- **Ex. 3 p. 148-149** match the paragraphs (1-5) in the text to the correct description (A-E).

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| A. | Restate the writer's opinion | 5 |
| B. | Introduce the topic & opinion | 1 |
| C. | First viewpoint & reasons, examples | 2 |
| D. | Opposing viewpoint ('s) | 4 |
| E. | Second viewpoint & reasons, examples | 3 |



The structure of the paragraphs

The sentence giving argument is a topic sentence in the paragraph.

- ***Para 1 – Introduction***

- 2-3 sentences giving the topic of the essay with different words

- ***Para 2 – First viewpoint***

- 1 sentence giving your opinion

- 1 sentence giving the first argument + 1 sentence giving the reason or an example

- 1 sentence adding one more argument + 1 sentence giving the reason or an example

- 1 sentence adding the third argument (it is possible without examples) (all together about 6-7 sentences)



- ***Para 3 – Opposite viewpoint***

- 1 sentence giving the opposing argument + 1 sentence giving the reason or an example
- 1-2 other arguments (with or without examples) (all together about 3-4 sentences)

- ***Para 4 – Restating your opinion***

- 3-4 sentences in which you explain why you disagree with the opposing opinion and give one more reason to support your point of view.

- ***Para 5 – Conclusion***

- 2-3 sentences in which you express both opinions in other words and stress that although we should consider everything you cannot agree with the opposing point of view
- (all together about **16-18 sentences** in the essay)



Ex. 2 p. 148 Read the text and find the topic sentences



- Para 2
- **Opinion ‘against’**
 - They can be a serious distraction in classrooms (reason – constant interruptions from mobile phones ringing)
 - Students cannot listen to the teacher and concentrate fully on their work (reason – they are sending text messages or playing games)
- Para 3
- **Opinion ‘against’**
 - There are possible risks to the safety and general welfare of students (reason – students being attacked and robbed of their phones on their way to and from school)
- Para 4
- **Opinion ‘for’**
 - It can be useful for students to have mobiles at school (reason – they can contact their parents during the day in case of an emergency)

Linkers

- We use linking words to connect ideas in the text. There are different types of linkers that we use in different places and for various purposes.

Purpose	Linkers
To list points:	Firstly, To begin with, At first, First of all, To start with, On the one hand
To add more points:	Secondly, thirdly, in addition, also, moreover, furthermore, what is more,
To introduce opposing viewpoints:	Although, In contrast, Apart from, while, However, On the other hand, though,
To introduce examples / reasons:	For example, for instance, such as, since as a result, in particular, because, therefore,
To conclude:	To sum up, All things considered, Lastly, all in all, Finally

Beginnings & Endings

- **When you start or finish your essay, you can use different techniques to make your writing more expressive.**
 - Addressing the reader correctly
 - Asking a rhetorical question
 - Using direct speech / a quotation
- **Ex. 6 p. 149 – match the techniques with the beginnings / endings.**
 1. Ending B
 2. Beginning A,B
 3. Ending C
 4. Beginning C
- **You also can start your essay in a usual, formal style paraphrasing the given ideas in the task.**
- **In the ending, don't forget to summarise all mentioned ideas.**



Introductory phrases

- To start your essay you can use these phrases:

- It is popular believe that....
- People often claim that....
- Some people argue that....
- It is often suggested that....
- Many people are convinced that....



Expressing opinions

- My opinion is that...
- I (strongly) believe
- I (completely) agree / disagree that
- I agree / disagree to a certain extent that ...
- In my opinion / view, ...
- The way I see it, ...
- It seems to me that...
- To my mind, ...
- I (do not) agree that ...
- As far as I am concerned, ...
- I am totally against...



Before you start your essay collect all ideas **for** and **against**

- **Example: ex. 9 p. 150**

The topic: There should be more ICT and fewer Art and Music lessons in schools.

A: ICT is more useful in life than Art and Music

B: ICT skills are essential for students' future careers

C: There is more to life than technology

} Viewpoints / Topic sentences

Agree

2. Technology will continue to advance and we will become increasingly dependent on computers.

3. Art and Music have little or no practical use.

4. ICT skills are one of the basic requirements for employment in any company these days.

5. A knowledge of ICT is essential for many everyday tasks such as using the Internet to compare prices of products or shop online

Disagree

1. Subjects such as Art and Music help to develop balanced individuals

6. Art and Music encourage creativity and imagination

Some advice

- In the opinion essay you cannot use contractions:

e.g. Instead of **it's** write **it is**.

- Do not use informal language such as idioms or phrasal verbs.
- Use more adjectives and synonyms.

e.g. pupils – teenagers – schoolchildren – boys and girls

beautiful – magnificent – pretty – nice

wonderful – amazing – fantastic – fabulous

big – huge – great – enormous

equipment – supplies

device – gadget

unhealthy – bad – harmful



- Before writing decide on verb tenses you will use in your essay. In the opinion essays people often use Present Simple Active and Present Simple Passive.

Discuss and write

- Choose one of the topics and follow the steps to write your essay.

Step 1: Think of ideas

Step 2: Organize your ideas in a chart:

e.g. viewpoint 1 – examples / reasons, etc.

Step 3: Think of a title and topic sentences

Step 4: Think of a conclusion

Step 5: Write your essay



1. In the recent years computers have become an essential part of our life. Although some people think that there is too much harm in using them. Give your opinion about this.

2. There is an opinion that we no longer need libraries – we can just download books from the Internet. What do you think about it?

Write about 200 – 250 words

Do not forget to write 5 paragraphs

Reflection / Homework

- **Answer!**
 - What do we use linking words for?
 - What types of linking words do you know?
 - How can you start or finish your essay?
 - Which phrases can you use to express your opinion?
- **Homework**
 - W.B. p. 65 ex. 2-3-4
 - Learn the linking words and opinion phrases
 - Finish your essay

