

Units 7 & 8 Writing worksheet

Writing a for and against essay

GOAL: write a for and against essay for a student news website.

Include: arguments and examples; signpost phrases in topic sentences; connectors for purpose and reason; expressions for presenting for and against arguments.

1 Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1 What do you do when you have a headache?
- 2 Do you take any medicine for the headache? Why? / Why not?
- 3 What do you know about how different medicines are made?

2 Read the for and against essay quickly. What is the topic of the essay? Is the writer for or against it?

Using animals for testing medicines has been open to question for a long time. Some people strongly believe that it is necessary so that we can find cures for serious illnesses. Others believe that animals should not be used because it is cruel. This essay will look at the arguments for and against animal testing.

On the one hand, people in favour argue that without animal testing, we cannot do the necessary research as it is unethical to test unknown drugs on humans. Another reason to support animal testing is that the animals are bred specifically for experiments. A clear example of this is laboratory mice. The mice are bred only for laboratory use, so the experiments do not negatively affect the natural environment.

On the other hand, many people are against any animal testing. The main point is that the experiments are cruel because they cause the animals pain. A further argument is that the experiments may not give accurate results, since animals are biologically different to humans.

In conclusion, I believe disadvantages outweigh the advantages, and testing on animals should stop. Although testing may improve the lives of humans, animals should not suffer in order to achieve this.

Writing skill organising arguments and examples

Make your for and against essay clearer and more effective by organising your ideas into two different paragraphs, one for and one against. In each of these paragraphs, present the arguments, then support them with one example or more.

Follow the essay structure below:

Paragraph 1: statement of topic (no opinion)

Paragraph 2: arguments **for** the topic + example(s)

Paragraph 3: arguments **against** the topic + example(s)

Paragraph 4: conclusion + the writer's opinion

3 Read the text from Exercise 2 again. Find the following.

- 1 the statement of the topic
- 2 a *for* argument
- 3 a *for* example
- 4 an *against* argument
- 5 an *against* example
- 6 the writer's opinion

Writing mechanics using signpost phrases in topic sentences

To make your essay easier to follow, start paragraphs with signpost phrases. These tell the reader what to expect from the paragraphs. For example:

Main paragraphs

On the one hand, (people) ...

On the other hand, (some people) ...

One major advantage / disadvantage is that ...

There are several arguments for / against ...

Concluding paragraph

In conclusion,

To sum up, ...

I believe ...

In my opinion ...

4 Underline the topic sentences in the text in Exercise 2.

Writing mechanics giving reasons

We use connectors to give a reason or a cause.

because + clause

The main clause gives the result and *because* + clause gives the reason.

The mission failed because they didn't have the right equipment.

cause = not having the right equipment result = the mission failed

due to + clause

because of + clause

Due to can be replaced with *because of*:

Due to technical difficulties, the website is not working.

We arrived late because of the bad weather.

as / since + clause

We often use *as* and *since* before the main clause when the reason is known and/or less important. However, they can also go after the main clause.

As there were a lot of problems, the meeting took a long time.

The meeting took a long time since there were a lot of problems.

We use other connectors to describe the purpose or goal. *In order to* is more formal than *so that*.

in order to + infinitive

They changed the rule in order to improve things.

so that + clause

They repeated the main points so that everything was clear.

5 Find examples of connectors of reason in the text in Exercise 2.

6 Choose the correct connector to complete the sentences.

1 Schools ask students to bring laptops to class *so that / in order to* help with research.

2 *In order to / Since* most teenagers have phones, they should be allowed to use them for classwork.

3 *As / So that* phones are banned, schools should provide other devices for research.

4 Different ways of studying should be allowed *due to / so that* everyone can benefit.

5 Teachers are against using technology all the time *because / because of* it can be very distracting.

WRITE

7 Read the for and against essay title. Then follow the steps to plan your essay.

More and more countries are starting to invest in space exploration. What are the arguments for and against this? What is your opinion?

- 1 Make notes for and against the topic.
- 2 Think of examples to support each argument.
- 3 Decide on the order to include your arguments and examples.
- 4 Outline your opinion.

8 Look at the **Key language** box. Which expressions does the writer use in the text in Exercise 2?

Key language expressions for presenting for and against arguments and examples

Presenting arguments

The main point is that ...

Another reason to support ...

A further argument is that ...

Some people argue that ...

Many people believe that ...

Giving examples

For example ...

For instance ...

... such as ...

This is shown by ...

A clear example of this is ...

9 Write your for and against essay for a student news website. Use your notes and expressions from the **Key language** box. Write 120–150 words.

10 Read your partner's work and tick (✓) the checklist.

Has your partner ...

- ☐ ... organised the arguments and examples?
- ☐ ... included signpost phrases in topic sentences?
- ☐ ... included connectors for reason and purpose
- ☐ ... used expressions for presenting arguments and examples?

11 Do you agree with your partner's opinion? Why / Why not?