

Units 5 & 6 Writing worksheet

Writing an opinion essay

GOAL: write an opinion essay for a cultural magazine.

Include: an introduction; a conclusion; possessive pronouns; substitution words; expressions for structuring essays and giving opinions.

1 Which of these places have you visited or would like to visit? Where else have you been in Cyprus?

the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia

St. Hilarion Castle

the Kourion Archaeological Site

the historic village of Omodos

the Paphos Mosaics

Salamis Ancient Kingdom

2 Read the opinion essay quickly. Which places from Exercise 1 are mentioned?

Do you think governments should invest more money in historical sites or in modern museums and galleries?

Cyprus' historical places, such as the Kourion Archaeological Site, teach us about our heritage. I believe the government should invest more money in them. However, other people share a different opinion and argue that modern museums and galleries are more important. I disagree with their view and I will give reasons to support mine.

Firstly, visiting historical sites is an excellent way to experience the past. For example, seeing the village of Omodos can help us understand how we used to live.

Secondly, we need to keep our history alive. In my view, visiting St. Hilarion Castle and seeing it with our own eyes is more engaging going to a museum. Our life is already full of modern culture and, therefore, we do not need to see it in a gallery.

To conclude, I think that government support is needed for historical sites. We learn so much about our past by visiting them. History such as ours needs to be seen and experienced, and saved for future generations.

Writing skill writing an introduction and conclusion

Introduction

An introduction engages readers and makes them want to read more. Do the following in your introduction:

- 1 comment generally on the topic to interest the reader
- 2 express your opinion clearly

Conclusion

A conclusion reminds the reader of the main ideas in your writing and what your opinion is. Avoid giving any new information. Do the following in your conclusion:

- 3 restate your main opinion
- 4 summarise your previous argument(s)

3 Read the text from Exercise 2 again. Underline examples of points 1–4 from the Writing skill box.

Writing mechanics using possessive pronouns and substitution words

Possessive pronouns

We use possessive pronouns to refer to things which belong to someone. They have usually already appeared in the writing.

mine ours yours his hers theirs

I disagree with their view and I will give reasons to support mine

mine = my view

Substitution words

We use substitution words in place of other words. Substitution words include:

one ones this that these those some any it them

visiting St. Hilarion Castle and seeing it with our own eyes ...

it = St. Hilarion Castle

4 Find one example of a possessive pronoun and two examples of substitution words from the text in Exercise 2.

5 Circle the correct possessive pronoun or substitution word.

- 1 Some museums are cheap. However, there are also more expensive *ones* / *this*.
- 2 Other countries have free museums. Does *them* / *yours*?
- 3 The city needs more museums; the government needs to build *some* / *ones*.
- 4 Everyone should learn about their country's history. I know a lot about *any* / *ours*.
- 5 People enjoy visiting historical sites, especially *this* / *any* that are free.

Writing mechanics introducing opinions

Your opinion

In an opinion essay, give your viewpoint clearly. Include the following:

- Introduction – your general opinion
- Body paragraphs – ordered, detailed points to support your general opinion
Firstly / First of all, ... Secondly, ... In addition, ...
- Conclusion – a summary of your opinion

Other opinions

You should also consider other viewpoints, and contrast your view with them. This will make the essay stronger and more balanced.

Some people say / argue / think... but ..., However, ... Unfortunately, ... In contrast, ...

6 Underline expressions from the text in Exercise 2 which introduce an opinion.

7 Write two sentences for each statement below. One sentence should introduce your opinion and the other should introduce a different opinion.

- 1 Traditional Cypriot food is not as popular as fast food.
- 2 Eating meat is bad for our health.
- 3 Meeting up with friends in a restaurant is more exciting than eating at home.

WRITE

8 Read the opinion essay title. Make notes of your opinion and other possible opinions. Then discuss your ideas in a group.

In five years from now, will fast food restaurants be the most popular places to eat in Cyprus?

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

Key language expressions for structuring essays and giving opinions

<i>This is my view.</i>	<i>In my view ...</i>	<i>I don't believe this to be the case.</i>
<i>We should ...</i>	<i>We must ...</i>	<i>We need to ...</i>
<i>I think (that) ...</i>	<i>I know ...</i>	<i>I believe (that) ...</i>
<i>Many disagree ...</i>	<i>People say ...</i>	<i>Some people believe ...</i>
<i>To sum up, ...</i>	<i>To conclude, ...</i>	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>
<i>Lastly, ...</i>	<i>Finally, ...</i>	<i>In summary, ...</i>

10 Write your opinion essay for a cultural magazine. Use your notes and expressions from the *Key language* box. Write 120–150 words.

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

Has your partner ...

- ☐ ... included a clear introduction and conclusion?
- ☐ ... introduced different opinions?
- ☐ ... used expressions for structuring essays?
- ☐ ... included possessive pronouns and substitution words?

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