

Units 7 & 8 Writing worksheet

Writing a for and against essay

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

Include: subjective and objective writing; references to quantity and quality; opinions; expressions for supporting arguments.

1 Read the essay question below. What is your opinion?

Some people believe that cafes and restaurants in Cyprus should ban plastic straws. What are the pros and cons of doing this? To what extent do you agree with doing this?

2 Read the opinion essay from a local news website. Number the points in the order the writer makes them.

___ Wildlife is negatively affected by the plastic.

___ A lot of plastic is found in the sea.

___ We need global action.

___ There are different opinions on the straw ban.

___ Plastic straws can be replaced with paper ones.

Plastic consumption is a huge problem around the world. At least eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year, destroying marine life. To address this issue, some people argue that all cafés and restaurants in Cyprus should ban plastic straws. However, not everyone agrees that this is the best solution.

A major argument for banning straws is that they are too small to recycle. Therefore, they end up in the sea contributing to the amount of plastic found in the sea globally. A straw ban in Cyprus will help to reduce this problem. Furthermore, there is no drawback to banning plastic straws as they can easily be replaced with paper ones.

The main argument against the ban is that it is too little and much too late. To illustrate this, we can refer to the millions of tons of plastic that enter the sea each year. This is a global issue and we need global action.

To sum up, I am convinced that banning plastic straws in Cyprus is necessary. I believe that it is a brilliantly simple idea that will help the environment and, in addition, it will encourage people to avoid other single-use plastics. Unfortunately, we need much bigger solutions if we want to stop the catastrophic effect of plastic on our planet.

Writing skill using subjective and objective writing

An opinion essay can include both objective and subjective writing.

Objective writing

In objective writing, writers give an overview of different views and the topic, and they give the facts about the topic.

More plastic enters the ocean every day. It is predicted that soon more than 10 million tons will enter each year.

Subjective writing

In subjective writing, writers give their own opinion. They write from their own viewpoint and the readers know exactly how the writers feel.

Clearly, this is not right. In my view, we have to act right now.

3 Identify examples of objective and subjective writing in the text in Exercise 2. Discuss the examples with your partner and identify the language that helped you to decide.

Writing mechanics talking about quantity and quality

Using different expressions to express quantity and quality can make your writing more varied.

Quantity

***Many** people cycle now instead of using a car.*

*Since the law, people use **far fewer** plastic bags.*

*The idea of not providing any bags is **a little too much** for some people.*

Quality

*The government made an **excellent** decision.*

*Charging for plastic bags is a **fantastically simple** idea.*

*Plastic is **useful** but **harmful** for the environment.*

4 Review the essay. Underline phrases that mention quantity and quality.

5 Complete the quantity and quality sentences with your own ideas. Compare and discuss your ideas with a partner.

1 Many people I know ...

.....

2 Nowadays, there are far more ...

.....

3 Where I live, there is a little too much ...

.....

4 An absolutely wonderful thing to do is ...

.....

5 When I have a difficult choice to make, I ...

.....

6 One expensive but necessary household item is ...

.....

Writing mechanics giving opinions

In a for and against essay, give your opinion in the conclusion. Use an expression that clearly shows you are giving your own opinion. For example:

I am (not) convinced that ...

There is no doubt in my mind that ...

I (do not) believe that ...

I have no doubt that ...

6 Reorder the words to make sentences giving opinion.

1 that / I am / this is / to do. / convinced / the right thing

.....

2 the advantages / In my / far outweigh the / opinion, / disadvantages

.....

3 in my mind / There is / is the correct / approach. / that this / no doubt

.....

4 I do / with that / agree / point of view. / not

.....

5 for everyone, / This / in my view. / the best thing / is

.....

6 the most effective / doubt / solution / that it is / I very much

.....

WRITE

7 Read the essay question and make notes of arguments for and against. Compare your ideas with a partner and add to the table.

We should ban cars in towns and cities at the weekend to improve life for everyone.	
For	Against

8 Review your notes and choose the best arguments for and against. Complete the plan for the essay with more detail and add your opinion.

For Statement 1: Supporting argument: Supporting argument:
Against Statement 1: Supporting argument: Supporting argument:
Your opinion

9 Look at the *Key language* box. Underline the expressions in the text in Exercise 2.

Key language expressions for supporting arguments

To support this ...

In addition (to this) ...

Furthermore, ...

Building on this ...

Further evidence can be seen ...

To illustrate this ...

An example of this can be seen in the way ...

This is backed up by ...

10 Write your essay for the local news website. Use your plan and include objective and subjective writing, references to quantity and quality, opinions and expressions from the *Key language* box. Write 150–180 words.

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

Has your partner ...

- ☐ ... used objective and subjective writing?
- ☐ ... referred to quantity and quality?
- ☐ ... expressed opinions?
- ☐ ... used expressions for supporting arguments?

12 Change pairs. Read your partner's essay. How similar and different are your arguments? Do you agree with each other's opinions?