

OPINION ESSAY

-Unit 3 & 4-
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-STRUCTURE-

For and Against Essays **STRUCTURE:**

1. Introduction:

Paragraph 1: Present the topic, making a general remark about it, without giving your personal opinion.

2. Main Body:

Paragraph 2: Write 2 or 3 advantages / arguments **FOR**

Paragraph 3: Write 2 or 3 disadvantages / arguments **AGAINST**

Support each argument with examples.

3. Conclusion:

Paragraph 4: Give a balanced summary of the topic. You can mention your opinion here (*I believe / I think / In my opinion,...*)

Opinion Essays **STRUCTURE:**

4. Introduction:

Paragraph 1: Present the topic and give your personal opinion.

5. Main Body:

Paragraph 2: Give reasons to support your opinion.

Paragraph 3: add more (different) reasons to support your views. You may mention the opposing opinion and why you find it unconvincing.

6. Conclusion:

Paragraph 4: You restate your opinions using different words.

-CONNECTORS AND EXPRESSIONS-

Useful expressions to write an essay

Introduction		Comparisons	
first of all		compared to / in comparison with	
to begin with		to draw / make a comparison between	
to outline the main points		similarly	
firstly, secondly, thirdly, finally		as well as	
Weighing up arguments		Enumerating arguments	
on the other hand		in addition to / additionally	
to consider the advantages		besides / moreover / furthermore	
arguments for and against		above all	
to discuss the pros and cons			
in theory ... in reality			
anyway / at any rate / in any case			
in fact / actually / as a matter of fact			
up to a point			
so to speak			
Referring to		Restrictions	
with reference to		however / though	
regarding		nevertheless	
as regards		whereas	
according to		although / though / even though	
		in spite of / despite	
		on the contrary	
		sth is contrary to sth	
Giving reasons		Giving examples	
because		for example / for instance	
as / since		such as / including	
because of		to illustrate this point	
the reason for this is		what I mean is	
the reason why		et cetera / and so on	
		that is to say / i.e	
Consequences		Summarizing	
therefore		finally	
consequently		last of all	
as a result		in conclusion / to conclude	
for this reason		we can draw the conclusion	
all these reasons		to sum up	
		all in all	
		in short / in brief / briefly	



Emphasizing

I'd like to point out that

I'd like to emphasize

Generalizing

on the whole

in general

as a rule

to some extent

in many ways

Personal point of view

I think that

in my opinion/ in my view

as far as I know

as far as I am concerned

to be aware of a problem

to tell the truth

the fact is that

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-OPINION WORDS-

OPINION WORDS AND PHRASES

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K-2

Introductory phrases:

I like
I think
I believe
I feel
In my opinion
My favorite

Transition opinion words and phrases:

First
Second
Third
Finally
Next
First of all
After that

Clue Words

(Words that give the reader a clue that the sentence is an opinion.)

Better	Ugly
Best	Greatest
Wonderful	More
Nice	Most
Beautiful	Less
Bad	Least
Worse	Delicious
Worst	Disgusting
Terrible	

3-5

Introductory phrases:

In my opinion
I strongly believe
It is my belief that
From my point of view
I agree (or disagree) that
I maintain that
I am convinced that
I have no doubt
I feel wholeheartedly
I am confident that
In my experience
As far as I'm concerned
Speaking for myself
Personally, I think
I'd say that
I'd suggest that
I'd like to point out

Transition opinion words and phrases:

First
Second
Third
Finally
Next
First of all
After that
Equally as important
Besides
Further
Furthermore
Consequently
Moreover
Clearly
Obviously
In addition
Of course

Clue Words

(Words that give the reader a clue that the sentence is an opinion.)

To support:	To oppose:
Absolutely	Against
Advantage	Atrocious
Best	Cruel
Definitely	Disadvantage
Effective	Dreadful
Interesting	Eliminate
Magnificent	Harmful
Most important	Horrible
Popular	Shocking
Superb	Terrible
Superior	Tragic
Worthwhile	Unfair

Expressing Opinion

When you express your opinion you can use many phrases; phrases you can use to express agreement, disagreement or doubt and to draw conclusions. You may use them in writing and when speaking English.

Expressing agreement I agree that... That's a great idea! It's very likely that... I couldn't agree more. They have a valid point. She believes ... and so do I. I see what they mean, and... That sounds like a good idea... This is an important issue, because ... They don't believe ... and neither do I.	Expressing disagreement It never was ... I can't agree on... It is unlikely that... That's not how I see it. I totally disagree with... It's not a good idea, ... They seem to have forgotten ... She believes ... but I disagree. I don't think they have realized... That's all very well, but what about...?
Expressing doubt I doubt whether... I'm not sure about... What would happen if ...? I'm not convinced by that. I see what they mean, but... I've got reservations about... I agree with ... up to a point. He/she/they may have a point. I don't see how that would work.	Drawing conclusions I think... In my opinion... Because of this... My point is that... That would mean... As a result of this... That's what I think. What I really mean is, ... On the whole, I feel that... What I'm trying to say is, ...

Example:

I agree that it's useful to learn how to surf before going to California, **but it is unlikely that** you won't have anything to do there if you don't surf. **I agree with you up to a point,** but what **I really mean is that** there are many other things to do in California as well.