

How to write an opinion essay

We write an opinion essay to say what we think about a subject.
We only give our opinion, not other points of view.

Remember!

1 Structure

- In the introductory paragraph, explain the statement and give your opinion about it.
- In the next one or two paragraphs, give reasons for your opinion.
- In the last paragraph, summarize your opinions.
- Introduce each paragraph with a topic sentence, outlining your main ideas.

2 Content

- Give simple facts and examples to support your ideas.
- Do not write about advantages and disadvantages or points for or against.

Useful language

Giving an opinion: In my opinion, ... / Personally, I think ... / I believe that ... / I feel very strongly that ... / To my mind ... / I (completely) agree/disagree with ... / It seems to me that ...

Giving facts: It is a fact that ... / It is widely known that ... / There is/are definitely ... / It is true that ...

Referring to other people's ideas:
Many people say/believe that ...

Reason and result: This is because ... / As a result, ... / Therefore ... / My main reason is ... / Another reason is ...

Addition: What's more, ... / In addition, ... / Furthermore, ... / Moreover, ... / too / as well / also

Concluding: To sum up, ... / To conclude, ... / In conclusion, ... / It is clear that ...

Model question

'Life is more stressful today than in the past.' Do you agree?

Model answer

Many people believe that life today is more stressful than ever before, but is this really true? In my opinion, there has always been stress in people's lives, but the type of stress has changed.

In the past, people were stressed as a result of different things. It is a fact that many people had large families and little money. In addition, people had less health care than they do today. People had to work very long hours and they often had no holidays. To my mind, this implies that life was extremely stressful in the past.

Today, technology has made our lives easier. However, I think that it has also brought a different stress into our lives. Because of technology, life has become faster and faster. We are never alone and we are always rushing somewhere. The world is a very busy and noisy place.

In conclusion, although I agree that modern life is stressful, I also think that people in the past faced many problems. To my mind, life is not more stressful today, the stress is just different.

explaining the statement

giving your opinion

giving reasons

giving facts

adding information

giving an opinion

expressing contrast

giving an opinion

giving reasons

concluding

summarizing your opinion