

Unitatea de Învățare Nr. 6

ESSAYS 1 – FOR / AGAINST ESSAYS

‘Education is a progressive discovery of our ignorance.’

(Calvin Klein)

CUPRINS

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1. UNIT OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit you will become familiar with the structure and specific phrases used in 'for' and 'against' essays. You will also be able to identify good and bad points in writing these types of essays, how to avoid making mistakes and to make your essays well-organized. Furthermore, you will be able to write essays of your own matching the specific information to your originality and creativity.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Structure and specific phrases

'For' and 'against' essays are formal pieces of writing. Each new paragraph introduces a new opposing point of view.

Structure:

- **Introduction** : the author states the topic.
- **Main body** :
 - a. one paragraph includes arguments for.
 - b. the other paragraph includes arguments against, along with your justification.
- **Conclusion** : include either your opinion on the matter or an overall consideration on that issue.

N.B. In the introduction or the main body, never give your own opinion.
You may use your own opinions only in the final paragraph.

Specific Phrases

To introduce points of view:

One point of view in favour / against

One advantage / disadvantage of

One more / further advantage would be

To list points:

First / firstly / first of all / in the first place / To start with

Second / secondly

Third / thirdly

Finally

To make contrasting points:

Yet / however / nevertheless / on the other hand / despite / in spite of / even though / even if / while / whereas

To add more points to the same issue:

Moreover / furthermore / in addition to that / what is more / not to mention the fact that / let alone / besides / apart from that

To give examples:

For example / such as / for instance / especially/ i.e. / e.g.

To conclude:

All in all / on the whole / to sum up / all things considered

2.2 Useful tips

- Do not use informal phrases, short forms, colloquial phrases or idioms;
- Do not use aggressive strong forms;
- Support your points with logical justifications and examples;
- Write two or more sentences in each paragraph;
- Start each paragraph using a topic sentence;
- Use quotations or mottoes in order to support your point of view;
- Be organised – think of all the points for / against beforehand;
- Address the reader directly;

- Give personal opinions in the last paragraph;
- Insert strange situations in order to catch the reader's attention;
- End with a rhetoric question or a general consideration in order to give the reader something to think about.

☺ **Let's have fun!**

Q: 'Which is the most self-centered letter of the alphabet?'

A: 'I(i).'

stop and think



Exercise 1

Choose the correct word or phrase below.

1. Travelling broadens your mind. *Yet / Also*, it makes you manage on your own.
2. Being a good team-worker can be fun. *Furthermore / On the contrary*, one can prove his / her own skills on a particular domain.
3. Using micro-wave ovens can be dangerous. *Nevertheless / Moreover*, they can help you defrost or cook food very fast.
4. Dogs make great pets. *Similarly / In contrast*, they are extremely loyal as well.
5. Living in the country is very healthy. *What is more / However*, it can be boring sometimes.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

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3. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

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Exercise 2

Read the following sentences and label them as advantages or disadvantages of students' having a part-time job.

1. *It may be tiring.*
2. *You have more pocket money.*
3. *You can get more experience.*
4. *It can help you in getting a better job.*
5. *You miss some lectures.*
6. *Teachers might not be very understanding.*
7. *It is challenging.*
8. *It makes you feel more responsible.*
9. *You gain material independence.*
10. *You may get lower marks or grades.*

1 =; 2 =; 3 =; 4 =; 5 =

6 =; 7 =; 8 =; 9 =; 10 =

***'Education is what survives when what
has been learnt has been forgotten'.***

(B. F. Skinner)

reading 

Exercise 3

Read the following quotations and match them with the topics below:

Quotations

- A. *'To find a friend, one must close one eye; to keep him – two.'* (Norma Douglas)
- B. *'Technological progress has merely provided us more efficient means for going backwards.'* (Aldous Huxley)
- C. *'Fashion is made to become unfashionable.'* (Coco Chanel)
- D. *'Advertising isn't a science. It's persuasion. And persuasion is an art.'* (Bill Bernbach)
- E. *'Television is chewing gum for the eyes.'* (Frank Lloyd Wright)
- F. *'Success listens only to applause. To all else it is deaf.'* (Elias Canetti)
- G. *'Money is a sixth sense which makes it possible for us to enjoy the other five.'* (Richard Ney)

1. Arguments for and against following the latest trends in fashion.
2. Arguments for and against watching television as the main means of entertainment and information.
3. Arguments for and against considering money the most essential thing in life.
4. Arguments for and against using advertising as a means of customers' persuasion.
5. Arguments for and against being truthful to your friend.
6. Arguments for and against high technology as the greatest achievement towards mankind's progress.
7. Arguments for and against striving for success.

1 =; 2 =; 3 =; 4 =; 5 =;
6 =; 7 =

reading 

Exercise 4

Read the following for / against essay and label the paragraphs under the following headings: arguments for, arguments against, opinion, present topic. Then name two arguments for and two arguments against. Which is the author's opinion?

1. *Have you ever thought about the impact of telling the truth all the time? Are there any reasons to tell lies or keep quiet instead of telling the truth?*

2. *To begin with, telling the truth might hurt your best friend's feelings. Imagine him / her buying a new outfit. You can't tell the truth and exclaim: 'Oh, it looks terrible!', on the contrary, you either keep silent or tell a lie. Similarly, a doctor would not tell his terminally ill patient that he is going to live only for six more months. He would rather break the news to the patient's family first. Furthermore, imagine your boss making blunders or mistakes. You will either ignore the fact or flatter him for having been so 'diplomatic'. Finally, at the end of a party where everybody had a terrible time, you are expected to exclaim: 'Oh, thank you for the invitation. I have had a wonderful time!'*

3. *However, telling the truth is, in most cases, the best solution. Your best friend may expect you to tell only the truth regardless of the embarrassing circumstances. In addition, as a witness in court, you must tell the truth. It is often believed that it is easier to remember the truth than the lies, and thus telling the truth makes your life easier.*

4. *All in all, although there are certain disadvantages to telling the truth, I believe this is the only way to behave in life and offer an example to the other people around you.*

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

Arguments for:

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.....

Arguments against:

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Author's opinion:

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.....
.....

'Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value'.

drills ?

Exercise 5

Read the extracts below and decide which are the beginnings and which are the endings.

1. *To conclude, extreme sports can be fun, but one should not try to risk one's life in vain.*
2. *Have you ever thought about being a globe-trotter? Many people, especially the young ones, consider it the best way to gain experience, make new friends and see new places. The question is: which are the arguments for and which are the arguments against doing it?*
3. *All things considered, I believe that dogs make perfect pets: they are not only loyal but helpful and good guardians.*
4. *More and more women choose to be single mothers. You may wonder why? Which are the advantages and the disadvantages of growing a baby on your own?*

1 =

2 =

3 =

4 =

Exercise 6

Match each argument about being a popular movie star to its corresponding justification:

Arguments

- A. you are famous
- B. you travel a lot
- C. you have a glamorous career
- D. you should control your diet
- E. you lose your privacy
- F. you earn lots of money

Justifications

1. everybody wants to meet you and ask for an autograph
2. you are chased by paparazzi
3. you are expected to be in different locations according to the film script
4. directors want you to look good all the time
5. great films have great box-office receipts
6. you meet interesting people, you can afford the most extravagant things, you are in the limelight, you become a model for the young generation

A =; B =; C =; D =; E =

F =

writing 

Exercise 7

Read the topic sentences below and write two more supporting ones.

1. Knitting certainly has lots of advantages.
 - a.
 - b.
2. There are several arguments against getting a part-time job as a student:
 - a.
 - b.
3. There are obvious drawbacks to being a VIP.
 - a.
 - b.
4. Cable television has got its advantages.
 - a.
 - b.

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Exercise 8

Fill in the correct linking word or phrase.

Have you ever thought about the effect a new supermarket can have on your neighbouring area? It may seem, at first, that this new place brings only benefits, but which are the real advantages and disadvantages of a supermarket round the corner?

There are several points in favor of building a new supermarket in your area. (1), everybody would like to have a special place where to buy everything from groceries to cosmetics or washing-up liquid. (2), at the beginning prices are supposed to be lower. There will be a lot of free promotional products or samples as well as helpful polite shop-assistants.

(3), the waste packages may increase pollution. (4), there will be not enough parking spaces for the district residents.

(5), it is obvious that building a new supermarket can involve both good and bad points. I do believe that the advantages could contribute to everybody's welfare.

writing

Exercise 9

Write an essay giving arguments for and against living on your own. Look at the prompts below and write your essay using the following structure: Introduction – Main body – Conclusion. Use 140-190 words.

Advantages

- You feel independent
- You can organize your own life
- You become more responsible
- You can entertain whenever you want

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