

Writing a comment

STEP 1 Preparation

- Form your opinion on the topic.
- Collect all the material (arguments and examples) you can to support your opinion.
- Think of possible counterarguments. Refuting them can be a good way to convince the reader.
- Make an outline to structure your material. It is a good idea to start with the weakest argument and end with the strongest.
- To make your text convincing, plan stylistic devices, e.g. rhetorical questions or hyperbole. → S10.2

STEP 2 Writing

Introduction

Present the issue and attract the reader's attention. When commenting on a given text, briefly summarise the point the author makes.

Second part

State your opinion and outline reasons for your view.

Third part

Present your arguments in one paragraph each.

→ S20.1

Conclusion

Summarise your opinion and give an outlook on further developments or possible solutions. Do not introduce any new ideas here.

STEP 3 Editing and checking → S20.2

USEFUL PHRASES

Expressing your opinion/Convincing people

Those who advocate ..., often argue that ...

It might be argued that ...

We have to bear in mind, however, that ...

With this in mind you can better understand why ...

So what is it that (makes people do sth... /leads to...)?

So why ...?

I believe/suppose ...

I am sure/convicted/certain that ...

As far as I can see ...

Looking at ... from this/their point of view, you have to admit that ...

It is quite obvious that ... / There is no doubt that ...

Countering arguments

I agree/do not agree at all with ...

However, I agree with ... only to a certain extent.

Certainly, the author has a point. Yet/Nevertheless ...

This sounds good, right? However, ...

I would like to mention the fact that ...

I strongly question/support/object to ...

I find it hard to believe that ...

Instead of adopting this (simplistic) stance, we should ...

There is something fundamentally wrong with this idea/ point of view.

Summing up/Conclusion → S14.1