

Writing

Argumentation

There are certain issues that require you to first discuss your own position on the topic and then have put your feet into the shoes of those who disagree with you, state their opinion and reject it immediately via reason and/or examples.

Example:

Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study in which jobs are plentiful.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

To write an argumentative essay following the following outline:

I.	Introduction: Restatement of the issue plus your position
II.	Body Paragraph 1 : First point and supporting information
III.	Body Paragraph 2 : Second point and supporting information
IV.	Opposition point and refuting evidence
V.	Conclusion

SAMPLE ISSUE: Should animals be used in testing new drugs and procedures?

Medical research involving animals has dramatically improved the health of the human race. Without animal testing, the cure for polio would not exist and diabetics would suffer or die from their disease. In what follows the advantages of using animals in tests to develop medication are discussed.

The first advantage is that animal testing allows scientists to test and create new drugs. Animals such as monkeys or rabbits have similar physical processes to humans. This allows scientists to test the effects of certain drugs. If a drug produces adverse effects in animals it is probably unfit for human use.

Animal testing also is cheap. There is a large supply of animals for medical research. Animals are easily bred, and maintained safely in controlled labs, while the costs of testing in humans would be extremely high.

However, many people argue that animal testing is cruel. In some cases this is true. However it would be much crueler to test new drugs on people or children, or to let people die because there was not enough information about a drug. Furthermore, legislation in most countries sets standards for animal treatment, and laboratories have guidelines to prevent cruelty.

In conclusion, using animals in test designed to develop drugs for use by humans is justified in that this helps prevent risking human life and does not cost much to get animals required for this purpose. Although in some cases it may seem a merciless policy to follow, it is the an acceptable alternative given the suffering and deaths of so many people due to lack of appropriate medication.

HOMEWORK

Write an essay on the following issue.

Colleges and universities should require their students to spend at least one semester studying in a foreign country.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.