Writing

Essay: Writing good conclusions

The final paragraph of an essay should summarise the opinions you have expressed in your essay and include a comment. For example, if you have described how some motorbike riders don't always wear crash helmets and sometimes drive too fast, your summary could say that *they sometimes behave dangerously on the road.* Your comment, which often describes the future, could be that *they should obey the law in order to make driving safer for everyone.*

1 **Read the opinions below and then complete each summary with one of these words. Discuss in class what comment you could make on each one.**

carelessness poverty speeding

1 Many burglaries could be prevented if people remembered to lock doors and windows before going out.
To sum up, many burglaries happen because of _____.

2 A high proportion of road accidents are caused by people driving too fast.
To sum up, many road accidents are caused by _____.

3 Some people shoplift because they don't have enough money to feed and clothe their families.
To sum up, some shoplifters are forced to steal because of _____.

2 **Read the writing task below and circle the correct words to complete this statement about it.**
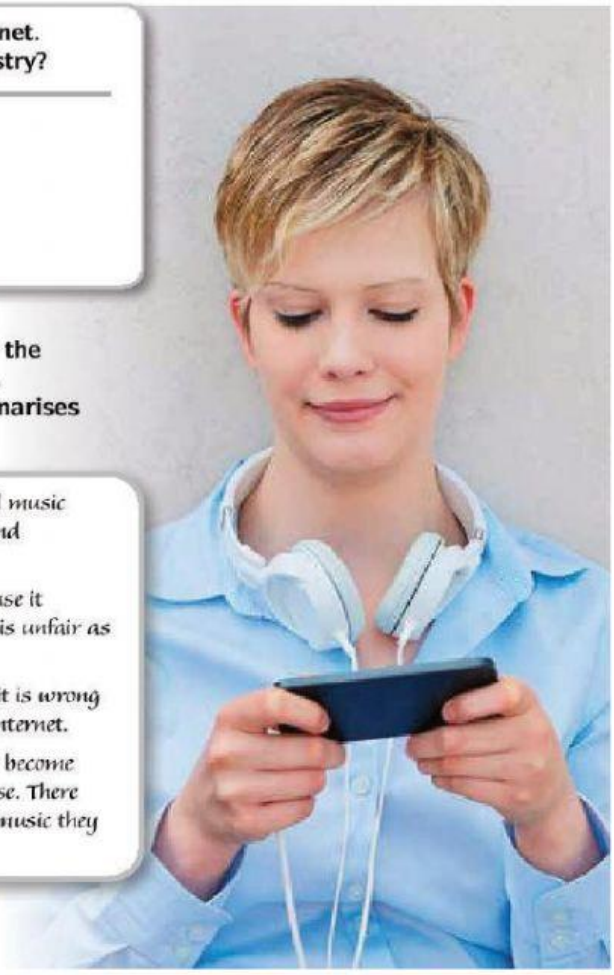
The question mainly asks your opinion about whether illegal downloading is good or bad for the people who **produce music / listen to music.**

You have been talking in class about illegal downloading from the internet. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay for homework.

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view. (140-190 words)

Many people illegally download music from the Internet.
Is this a good thing or a bad thing for the music industry?

Notes
Write about:
1 musicians
2 paying for music
3 _____ (your own idea)



3 **Read this essay and the two final paragraphs at the top of the next page that were written in answer to the question in 2. Which final paragraph answers the task question and summarises the writer's opinion?**

Many people who pirate music from the Internet think they are loyal music fans. However, I believe that what they are doing is bad for music and musicians.

In the first place, downloading music without paying is wrong because it means that musicians do not get properly paid for their work. This is unfair as they might have spent many months writing and recording it.

Moreover, if people really value music then they should pay for it. If it is wrong to steal CDs from shops, then it is just as wrong to steal from the Internet.

In addition, although some people say they are helping musicians to become famous by sharing illegal downloads with friends, this is not the case. There is no need to download because they can send their friends links to music they have discovered.

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a ☐ To sum up, many people find that paying to download music costs too much money. It would be better to make it cheaper in the future so that people might not break the law.

b ☐ To sum up, pirating music damages the music business. If fans started paying for their music, it might reduce the prices of downloads and CDs, which would be good for everyone.

4 **Now answer these questions about the essay in 3.**

1 In paragraph 4, the writer talks about an opposing opinion in order to show that there is another viewpoint / the other viewpoint isn't right.
2 Which words in the final paragraph you chose sum up the writer's opinion on the task question? Underline them.
3 In both final paragraphs, why does the writer use the word *might* instead of *will*?

_____

5 **When writing your essay, it is important to make your ideas sound realistic and not exaggerated. You can use modals such as *could, can, may, might,* etc to do this. You can also use adverbs (*sometimes, often, not always,* etc) or determiners (*some, many, most,* etc) to achieve the same effect. Rewrite these ideas in your notebook, making any necessary changes, to make them sound more believable.**

1 Crimes are committed by people who need help rather than punishment.
2 Prison life teaches people how to become better criminals.
3 Young people achieve great things with help and guidance.

6 **Read this writing task and use the plan and the Language Bank to help you write your essay. When you have finished your essay, check your work carefully.**

You have been talking about crime and punishment in class. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay for homework.

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view. (140-190 words)

Some people say that young offenders should be sent to an army camp for a while instead of being sent to prison. Is this a good or a bad idea for young offenders?

Notes
Write about:
1 being punished for crime
2 learning life skills
3 _____ (your own idea)

Plan
Paragraph 1: Introduce the topic and your opinion.
Paragraph 2: Make a point about punishment to support your opinion.
Paragraph 3: Make a point about learning life skills to support your opinion.
Paragraph 4: Use your own idea in support of or in contrast to the other points, or to show why an opposing viewpoint is wrong.
Paragraph 5: Summarise your opinion and add a comment.

LANGUAGE BANK

Crime
break the law
commit a crime
turn to a life of crime
arrest someone for a crime
find someone guilty of a crime
minor/serious offences

Prison
send someone/go to prison
prisoners
cells
do time
education programmes

Army
discipline, self-discipline
physical/survival training
obeying orders

Skills
dealing with people
working in a team
communicating
learning a life/work skill

Results
a sense of responsibility
a sense of right and wrong
self-confidence
be proud of yourself
know what you are capable of

DOWNLOAD

Avoid making exaggerated statements. Use modals, adverbs or describe quantities to make your opinions sound more realistic.
In the final paragraph, answer the task question by summarising what you have written and adding a comment. If you can't think of a comment, say something about what might happen in the future.

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