Writing

Preparation

Are these arguments for or against reality TV shows? Write them in the correct group.

There are lots of different types of reality shows.	Some competitions are very difficult or dangerous.	People on reality shows have fun experiences and meet new people.
They can discover talented people.	They are fun to watch.	The winners win great prizes.	Reality shows are always the same.
People spend a lot of money on their phones when they vote.	Reality TV is not an easy way to become famous.	Some people on reality shows behave badly.

for reality TV shows	against reality TV shows

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A **for and against** essay

Reality TV shows are good entertainment

Reality shows are a very popular form of entertainment on TV nowadays. There are dozens of different types of programmes such as singing contests, cooking competitions or going to live in the jungle.

Firstly, I think that there is a lot of variety in reality TV. People at home can choose which types of programme they want to watch depending on what they are interested in. Some people like watching singing or cooking competitions while others prefer watching programmes about building houses or travelling around the world. In addition, reality TV programmes are a great opportunity to discover talented singers, dancers or chefs. Several people who take part in these programmes get jobs as a result of being on TV. Another advantage is that the people on the shows have interesting experiences and meet new people.

On the other hand, some people think that reality TV is an easy way for them to become famous. However, most successful singers, actors or chefs have worked hard all their lives and are good at their job because of their hard work. Also, sometimes the people on the shows have to do really difficult or dangerous things. The competitions are very hard and there is only one winner. Another disadvantage is that some programmes always follow the same format and this can be boring to watch.

To sum up, I think that reality TV is good entertainment. There is lots of variety which means there is something for everyone and they are interesting to watch.

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Top Tips for writing

1. Start each paragraph with a word or phrase so the reader knows what to expect, for example *Firstly, On the other hand* or *To sum up.*
2. Link your sentences with these words.
3. Organise your essay in paragraphs.
   - paragraph 1 — introduction
   - paragraph 2 — arguments for the subject
   - paragraph 3 — arguments against the subject
   - paragraph 4 — conclusion

1. Check your understanding: multiple selection

Which of these arguments are mentioned in the essay? Tick six ideas.

1.	☐	They can discover talented people.
2.	☐	Reality shows are always the same.
3.	☐	Some people on reality shows behave badly.
4.	☐	People on reality shows have fun experiences and meet new people.
5.	☐	Some competitions are very difficult or dangerous.
6.	☐	There are lots of different types of reality shows.
7.	☐	They are fun to watch with your friends.
8.	☐	Reality TV is not an easy way to become famous.
9.	☐	People spend a lot of money on their phones when they vote.
10.	☐	The winners win great prizes.

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2. Check your writing: reordering – essay structure

Write numbers 1–4 to put the paragraph topics from the essay in the correct order.

	Conclusion – writer's opinion
	Introduction – the situation
	Arguments for reality TV shows
	Arguments against reality TV shows

3. Check your writing: rewriting sentences – linking words

Rewrite the sentences using the word or phrase in brackets. You may need to change the punctuation.

1. Reality shows are all the same but many people still watch them. **(however,)**

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2. We can discover talented people on reality TV and we can vote for the ones we like the most. **(furthermore,)**

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3. One positive thing about reality TV is that it shows normal people. **(one advantage of)**

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4. My first point is that reality TV is fun to watch. **(firstly,)**

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5. Also, you can learn many new things. **(in addition,)**

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6. The opposite argument is that reality TV might set a bad example for young children. **(on the other hand,)**

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