

Part 1: Unit 7b page 108 A letter (to the editor) expressing an opinion



A. Discuss

1. Why do you think people write letters to the editors of newspapers and magazines?

comment issues opinion

To express their _____ and _____ on various _____.

2. Have you ever read any of these letters?

agreed letters writers

I have read such _____ and I _____ with the _____.

3. Would you consider writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper? Why/ Why not?

express editor free consider rights

Yes, I would because people must be _____ to _____ their opinion and fight for their _____.

No, I wouldn't _____ writing a letter to the _____ of a newspaper because it is not in my character, etc.



B. Read the extract from a newspaper article and the letter to the editor below.



Yesterday the mayor of Mayfield announced plans to build a modern shopping centre in Clifton Park. He says it will serve the needs of the residents and also attract shoppers from neighbouring towns. Many people are not happy with this decision. One resident, Mark Wilson, told us, 'We don't need a shopping centre! So many trees will be cut down if the mayor goes ahead with his plans. Clifton Park gives us the oxygen we breathe and it's where our children go to play. We need to save it at all costs.'

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a concerned resident and I am writing in response to your article about the mayor's plans to build a modern shopping centre in Clifton Park.

First of all, I must agree with the mayor that a shopping centre would be very convenient for everybody. In addition to creating more job opportunities, it would also offer us more options for entertainment. Who would say no to a cinema complex or a food court with different cuisines, for instance?

On the other hand, it is outrageous to even think of destroying Clifton Park. I am very disappointed that the mayor shows such a lack of sensitivity for environmental issues. Air pollution is a growing problem in Mayfield and as Mr Wilson points out, Clifton Park must be saved at all costs. Surely a more suitable location can be found for the shopping centre – for example, the abandoned warehouses behind the train station.

In conclusion, we do not need to destroy Clifton Park in order to build the new shopping centre. If we consider the alternative solutions more carefully, we can find one that is acceptable to everyone in Mayfield.

Yours faithfully,
P Woodhouse
Paula Woodhouse

Do you agree with the writer?

logical Mayfield agree

I _____ with the writer because she sounds _____ and wants what's best for _____.

C. Read the following sentences. Tick the ones that apply to the letter above.

The writer:

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. uses an appropriate greeting and signature ending. | <input type="radio"/> | 6. refers to specific points made in the newspaper article. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. explains why she is writing in the first paragraph. | <input type="radio"/> | 7. expresses her opinion in an aggressive manner. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. uses rude language. | <input type="radio"/> | 8. makes suggestions. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. justifies her opinion and gives examples. | <input type="radio"/> | 9. uses linking words / phrases. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. uses rhetorical questions for emphasis. | <input type="radio"/> | 10. writes in a formal style. | <input type="radio"/> |