

Writing skills practice: A for and against essay – exercises

Look at the essay and do the exercises to practice and improve your writing skills.

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.
People spend a lot of money on their phones when they vote.	Reality TV is not an easy way to become famous.	Reality shows are always the same.
Some people on reality shows behave badly.		
for reality TV shows		against reality TV shows

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.

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, To sum up.
2. Link your sentences with these words.
3. Organize 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? Choose six ideas.

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

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