COLEGIO SAN JOSE
JESUITAS – AREQUIPA

NAME: _____

5H Writing

For and against essay

I can write a for and against essay.

Writing Strategy

Make sure your essay has a clear, logical structure.

Paragraph 1: Introduction. Rephrase the question and/or give an example of the situation it describes to show that you have understood it.

Paragraph 2: Give two or three pros (arguments for). Include evidence and/or examples where appropriate.

Paragraph 3: Give two or three cons (arguments against). Include evidence and/or examples where appropriate.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion. Sum up the most important or convincing arguments and give your opinion.

1 Read the Writing Strategy. Then read the task and essay.

1 How many pros and cons are mentioned?
2 Which arguments are backed up by examples or evidence?

Some people think that one year's military service should be compulsory for everyone when they leave full-time education. What are the advantages and disadvantages of military service?

Many people believe that young men – and possibly women – should complete a year of military service after leaving school. There are some advantages to this, but also many drawbacks.

To begin with, it is sometimes argued that military service helps to build character by teaching people the military ethos of protecting others and working together for the greater good. By the same token, people often learn skills that they use in later life. For example, many people first get their driver's licence – or learn to cook and clean – in the military. Last but not least, some nations need manpower to defend themselves against hostile neighbours. Scrapping military service would jeopardise their security.

By contrast, many people maintain that military service prevents millions of young people from getting on with their lives. The reasoning is as follows: understandably, some people stay in higher education for years to avoid doing military service. Similarly, many employers are reluctant to give people permanent jobs until they've done their military service. In other words, military service has a much bigger impact on a person's life than the year they actually spend in uniform. Another compelling argument against military service is the obvious fact that people can be sent to war. There is a strong argument for saying that people who go to war should be career soldiers, who have accepted the risk.

To sum up, compulsory military service has some benefits for both countries and individuals. But overall, I feel that these benefits are outweighed by the serious impact on young people's lives.

2 Match the underlined words in the text with the words and phrases below.

In conclusion in the same way likewise on the other hand
people sometimes think that to put it another way

3 Complete the sentences with the words below.

case compelling least maintain place reasoning

1 Some people _____ that having nuclear weapons is a good thing, but I disagree.
2 The _____ for my argument against military service is as follows.
3 Why don't I want to go out? Well, in the first _____, it's pouring with rain.
4 Jess is a great colleague, a brilliant scientist, and last but not _____ – a true friend.
5 The fact that you could die is, in my view, a _____ reason not to join the army.
6 There's a strong _____ for compulsory military service in countries that share borders with hostile nations.

4 Read the task and make notes under the headings below. Think about pros and cons for the community as well as for people doing community service.

Some people argue that everyone should do a year of community service at some point in their lives. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of compulsory community service.

1 Advantages of compulsory community service

2 Disadvantages of compulsory community service

3 Your opinion

5 Write your essay (220–260 words) using your notes from exercise 4.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you ...

- ☐ followed all the advice in the Writing Strategy?
- ☐ used some of the phrases from exercises 2 and 3?
- ☐ checked your spelling and grammar?

LIVEWORKSHEETS