



Essays on Advantages and Disadvantages

I. Topic Sentences

Activity 1: Read the following essay about living abroad and fill in the topic sentences given below:

a) One of the main advantages of living in a foreign country is that people can enjoy better financial opportunities.

b) To sum up, even though living in a strange place may be hard at first, in time one can adjust to it.

c) On the other hand, it may be difficult for people to adapt to their new surroundings.

d) As we know, today there are about six billion people in the world.

Advantages and disadvantages of living abroad

1

All of them live in different countries and have diverse cultures. Some countries have become well developed, while others haven't as yet. For this reason, some people want to go to well-developed foreign countries to live more comfortably and earn more money. Living in a foreign country has many advantages, but it also has some disadvantages.

2

_____ For example, they may get a good job and a high salary so they can buy what they want and have a better lifestyle. For example, they may benefit from well-developed education and health systems. Moreover, one is given the chance to learn and become fluent in another language through everyday use. For instance, people can participate in lots of social activities thus improving their communicative skills. Finally, they become more independent by having to deal with difficult situations on their own.

3.

_____ If they live alone, they miss their families and countries. Sometimes they may feel isolated, frustrated, and lonely. In addition, if someone can't speak the language yet, he or she may face communication problems. What is more, there is discrimination in some countries. Foreigners aren't easily accepted in these places.

4.

_____ In my opinion, if a person has an opportunity to go to a well-developed foreign country, he or she should benefit from this opportunity for his or her future.



II. Supporting statements

The sentences which follow the topic sentence are called supporting statements. They are used to support the topic sentence by giving additional information. There must be a strong link between the topic sentence and the supporting statement.

Activity 2 Parts of the following text have been removed from the article. As you read the article, choose which extract (1-4) fits each gap.

Virtually no life at all

The Internet was born to almost universal acclaim, but it has a dark side, too.

We are in danger of creating a generation of Internet introverts, who can only interact with others when they are sitting behind a computer screen.

Parents need to take a positive action to stop the growth of this new social phenomenon.

The Internet is an artificial world.

Extracts:

- 1) They do everything on-line: they write on-line, they order books and pizzas on-line, they view the world from on-line.
- 2) It is a world without touch, which ignores years of social evolution. We need to ensure that it is not the only world that our children grow up in. Otherwise, our children may end up preferring it to the real, more loving but more frightening world outside.
- 3) This concerns the effect on people who spend twelve hours on-line, isolated from other people, from social functions, from the breeze of a spring day, or the touch of someone's hand.
- 4) They should set limits on the amount of time they allow their children to play on computers. They should find time to spend with their children doing other real activities.



III. Plan your essay

Activity 3 Using the ideas below write an outline of an essay titled.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Watching Television

Ideas: good company; bad for the eyes; can be educational; stops people from talking to each other; cheap; makes reading less attractive; good for old people living alone; bad for the sports industry

Advantages

1.

2.

3.

Example:

Example:

Example:

Disadvantages

1.

2.

3.

Example:

Example:

Example:

Activity 4 Write your essay on advantages and disadvantages of watching television. Make sure that it has an introduction, a paragraph on advantages, a paragraph on disadvantages and a conclusion. Remember to use linking words:

First of all/Firstly/Second/Secondly/Third/Thirdly/Finally

In addition/Moreover/Furthermore/What is more

However/On the otherhand/In contrast

In conclusion/To sum up/On the whole



Activity 4: After writing your essay, revise it using the following checklist:

	Yes	No
1. The essay consists of 4 paragraphs		
2. The introduction states clearly what the essay will be about		
3. There is a Topic Sentence introducing Paragraph 1 of the Body		
4. There are three advantages in the paragraph on advantages		
5. There is an example for each advantage		
6.		
7. There is a Topic Sentence introducing Paragraph 2 of the Body		
8. There are three disadvantages in the paragraph on the disadvantages		
9. There is an example for each disadvantage		
10. The conclusion summarizes the main points and makes a personal comment		
11. There are linking words/phrases		
12. Each sentence has the following word order: Subject Verb Object		