

How to Write a For & Against Essay

Introduction	Teenagers <u>have always spent</u> a lot of time watching television. As a result , there is growing concern about the influence of television. 1. State a fact – use the perfect tenses 2. Introduce your topic
Disadvantages	On the one hand , it is thought that <u>watching</u> television can cause damage. They claim that repeatedly watching violence on TV has a <u>negative effect</u> on many teens and can cause violent behavior. Moreover , they worry that some teens spend more time watching television than socializing with their friends. - First sentence should include a gerund.
Advantages	On the other hand , if teenagers watch television, it is likely <u>that they will learn</u> a lot of useful information. For example , there are educational programs about a wide variety of topics; from the environment to technology. In addition , there are programs especially for teenagers that deal with important issues such as friendship, trust and drugs. Such programs can help teenagers understand these issues better. - First sentence should include the 1st conditional.
Conclusion	In conclusion , although violence on TV or watching too much TV may be harmful, I believe that the benefits of television are greater than any harm it might cause. However, ultimately each parent must choose what is best for his or her own teenager.

Things To Remember

- 1. Separate Your Paragraphs.** – Put a line between each paragraph
- 2. Do NOT state your opinion at the beginning** - You can state your opinion at the end of the essay if the question asks for it or says that you may do so.
- 3. Don't repeat your argument** - Make sure that you have two arguments for (advantages) and two arguments against (disadvantages).
- 4. Provide Examples** - You must provide examples to support your arguments.

5. **Use Connectors** - The second, third and fourth paragraph should each start with a connector. You should use additional connectors throughout the essay as well.



Read the model for and against essay and complete the writing tasks that follow.

The Computer – the Best Invention of the Century?

There is no doubt that the 20th century is one of the most remarkable* in human history, mainly because of the many technological advances made during that period. It is believed that the computer is the best invention of the century and that its contribution to many areas, such as science and education, is greater than the contribution of other 20th century inventions. **However, despite** its numerous benefits, there are some drawbacks. Whether it is the best invention of the century is a **controversial issue**.



One major argument for the computer is that it has revolutionized* communication and knowledge sources, and has enabled us to do things we could not do before, such as access* online resources for a variety of purposes and keep huge amounts of data. Computer technology allows for information of all kinds to be accessed easily and spread throughout the world almost instantly.

A negative aspect of the computer is that it has become an inseparable part of our lives. As a result, we have become so dependent* on it that we sometimes forget it is just a device. Youngsters spend too much time on the computer and focus less on their studies and other activities. What's more, instead of face-to-face interaction, many people only communicate with each other online.

To sum up, although the invention of the computer has brought about huge benefits as mentioned above, there are some disadvantages. Therefore, I personally think it is wrong to consider it the best invention of the century.

A Write the arguments the writer gives in favor of the computer.

Argument 1: _____

Argument 2: _____

B Add at least TWO more advantages (pros) and two disadvantages (cons) to using the computer

Advantages (Pros)	Disadvantages (Cons)

F Use the model essay to write an essay about the advantages (pros) and disadvantages (cons) of communicating with people through texting.

- Use the model essay to help you.
- Use the Writing Guidelines (see pages 43-47).
- Make a list of pros and cons before you begin.
- Write 120-140 words.



Topic: _____

For
Against

3

Read the model for and against essay and complete the writing tasks that follow.

Working Teens - Pros and Cons

Teenage years are the time of transition from youth to adulthood. This transition is characterized, among other things, by a teen's desire to become financially* independent. For this reason, many teens find a parttime job and work a few hours a day, after school or in the evening. [There are arguments both for and against](#) teens working, especially during the school year.

On the one hand, teens who work become more confident and independent, and develop a sense of responsibility. In addition, jobs teach teenagers working skills, such as how to fill out an application form*, how to interview well and how to get along with their co-workers and bosses. These skills are very important for their future as adults. **Last but not least**, they learn to manage their money and appreciate its value.

On the other hand, even parttime work can have a negative effect on teens. **Firstly**, it might affect their studies. It is known that teens who work 13 to 20 hours a week get lower grades. **Secondly**, teens who work find it hard to keep up with after-school activities. **What's more**, overworking makes teens sleep more, exercise less, and spend less time with their family and friends.

In conclusion, given the pros and cons of this debatable issue, I believe that teens should work because this will help them prepare for real life. **Yet**, they should make sure they have enough time left for studies and social life. **After all**, they will be working enough as adults.

JOB SEARCH



A Add at least TWO more advantages (pros) and TWO disadvantages (cons) to the debatable topic Working Teens.

Advantages (Pros)	Disadvantages (Cons)

For
Against

4

Read the model for and against essay and complete the writing tasks that follow.

Technological Progress

Technological progress has changed our lives immensely*. Two of the major technological advances* are the Internet and cell phones. Some people believe that this progress has changed people's lives for the better, while others claim that it has caused a lot of damage.

On the one hand, technological advances such as the Internet and cell phones have created positive effects. One of these is faster and easier ways to communicate. The Internet and cell phones, for instance, enable* us to communicate with people around the world in seconds and at any time. Moreover, they provide quick and accurate ways to send and access information about practically any topic.

However, there are also some negative effects to technological progress. It has made many people too dependent on technology. As a result, they no longer remember as much information, such as numbers and names. In addition, smartphones, by allowing access to the Internet and social media, are the cause of constant interruption*. No matter where you are or what you are doing, your phone is always there, distracting you from being present and attentive* to the people you are with.

Moreover, the Internet tempts children to spend too much time at the computer and this means less quality time with friends and family.

In summary, I believe that technology has certainly changed our lives for the better. In fact, it would be difficult to imagine life without the latest technological innovations*. Yet, we should also remember to put these devices* aside occasionally*.



A Complete the paragraph below according to the model essay.

Technological progress has made our lives _____. It has _____

Nevertheless, it has caused _____

C Rewrite the model essay. Use your own examples of pros and cons from **B**.

- Remember to include your personal view in the conclusion.
- Use a variety of connectors and linking words from the General Guidelines (see page 8).
- Use different useful language expressions than the ones used in the model essay (see page 46).
- Write 120-140 words.



Topic: _____