

UNIT 3 An opinion essay

In an opinion essay, make sure you state your opinion clearly in the first paragraph.

Don't forget to include one or two points against your opinion. They show that you have considered both sides of the argument, so they make your argument stronger.

State your opinion again in the final paragraph, but say it in a different way to the way you said it in the first paragraph.

The amount of time that children spend doing sport at school has decreased in many countries. These days, pupils are spending more time in the classroom doing subjects like Maths and English. Of course, these subjects are important, but I do not think it is a good idea to take time away from sports.

Sport has many benefits. Firstly, many of us enjoy doing sport. Personally, the day when we do sport is the day I enjoy most. Some students do not enjoy academic subjects but they like sport and PE lessons, and this may encourage them to enjoy school more. Secondly, there is no question that young people are spending too much time in front of screens. People aren't doing enough exercise in their free time, so schools should help. Finally, sport is good for the brain as well as the body, in my view. If I have just done exercise, I have more energy for learning.

However, it's true that children have a lot to study these days, so if they're spending time at school doing sport, they have to do more work at home. Also, there are other important subjects such as Art and Music. Should we give them time, too?

Overall, I would say that sport is as important as any other school subject. In fact, schools should prepare students for healthy lives as well as future jobs. I strongly believe that making sport compulsory would help achieve this goal.

In the second paragraph, write at least two points that support your opinion.

Use linking words like *Firstly*, *Also* and *Finally* to structure your argument.

Using questions can make a point more interesting or powerful.

Useful language

Giving your opinion

Personally, I think that ...

I strongly believe that ...

I do not think that ...

Of course, ...

There is no question that ...

I would say that ...

It's true that ...

In my opinion / view, ...

5 WRITING SKILL Giving your opinion

a Read the statements. What do you think? Use the Useful language box and make notes about your opinions on two or three of the statements.

- 1 The government should stop people doing dangerous sports like boxing.
- 2 There are more disadvantages than advantages for a country when it holds international sporting events like the Olympic Games.
- 3 There are good reasons why some professional sportspeople make more money than doctors, teachers and nurses.
- 4 It is better to encourage children to practise sports that are not competitive (e.g. yoga) than competitive sports.
- 5 The world of sport is a better place these days because of all the money that has come into it from business and advertising.
- 6 Young people often see professional sportspeople as heroes. Some people think that they have a responsibility to be good role models.