

Developing writing

An opinion essay

- 1 **DISCUSS** Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- How do you think the people feel?
- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a lot of money?

- 2 **DISCUSS** Look at the writing task. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why?

Write an opinion essay on the following topic:

You have to have a lot of money to be happy.

- 3 Read the essay and answer the questions.

- Does the writer agree or disagree with your opinion in 2?
- What reasons does the writer give for his/her opinion?



A Some people have a lot of money, and other people have problems buying food or paying rent for their houses. Of course, money is important in life, but I **(a) agree/disagree** that you have to have a lot of money to be happy.

B **(b) Firstly/Secondly**, many people dream about being rich and having things like fast cars and big houses, **(c) but/however** these things only make people happy for a short time. Every day in the news we see examples of unhappy rich and famous people. **(d) In my opinion/Finally**, happiness comes from the people in your life, not the things you have.

C **(e) Secondly/Firstly**, people who have good friends and strong relationships with their family are often the happiest. **(f) In my view/However**, these relationships are much more important than money. Trying to earn a lot of money can also be bad because you spend more time at work than with your family.

D **(g) In conclusion/To sum up**, I think money is very important because you need it to pay for things like clothes, food and a place to live. **(h) However/Firstly**, you don't need to have a lot of money to be happy. Good friends and strong family relationships are the most important things in life.

- 4 Look at the Writing bank and choose the correct alternatives in the text in 3. Sometimes both options are possible.

Writing bank Useful language for an opinion essay

Expressing your opinion

I agree/disagree, I think, In my opinion/view

Ordering your ideas

Firstly, Secondly, Finally, In conclusion, To sum up

Introducing a contrast

but, however,

- 5 Match these paragraph descriptions to paragraphs A-D in the essay in 3.

- Sum up your opinion with a short conclusion.
- Give additional reasons for your opinion.
- Explain the main reason for your opinion.
- Give your initial response to the statement.

Practice makes perfect

- 6a Write an opinion essay in response to the statement below. Use the paragraph structure in 5 and the phrases in the Writing bank.

Friends are more important than family.

- 6b When you finish your essay, use the Writing checklist on page 149 to check it.

