8.7 Writing

An opinion essay

1 Read the article and match paragraphs 1–4 with topics a–d below.

a ☐ Adding contrasting ideas
b ☐ Balancing opinions
c ☐ Summarising and concluding
d ☐ Giving your main reaction

'PEOPLE WHO DON'T RECYCLE SHOULD PAY A FINE.'



Do you agree? Explain your ideas.

1 In my opinion, there are many ways we can help protect the environment and recycling is one of them. Plastic, glass, paper and metal can all easily be recycled and reused. Unfortunately, these things are often thrown away and, as a result, hurt wildlife and nature. But I don't believe that fines are the best solution to the problem.

2 On the one hand, everybody should be responsible when they throw things away. For most people it's easy to recycle, so fines might be a good punishment for people who are too lazy to separate their rubbish. On the other hand, some people would have to travel a long way to do this. For this reason, I think a fine would be an unfair punishment.

3 Although I agree some people should be given a punishment for not recycling, I think that there is a bigger problem to solve. In order to make a difference, big companies need to stop using so much plastic and other unecological materials, and pay big fines if they don't recycle.

4 In general, I think that fines for companies is the best way to stop plastic and other harmful materials being left around in seas and forests.

2 Read the essay again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

The writer thinks that

1 ☐ recycling is the best way to help the environment.
2 ☐ recycling isn't easy for everyone.
3 ☐ big companies should use no plastic at all.
4 ☐ giving fines to companies is the best way to help the environment.

3 Match the sentence halves.

1 *f* We wrote an email to the supermarket
2 ☐ As a result of crime in the area,
3 ☐ He's going to the police station so
4 ☐ He broke the law, so
5 ☐ They went to the bank in
6 ☐ Pickpocketing is a big problem. For

a there are more security cameras.
b this reason, we need more police officers on the street.
c as to get his reward.
d order to look for clues.
e he has to pay a fine.
f ~~to ask them to use less plastic.~~

WRITING TIME

4 Write an opinion essay on the following question: Young people who damage school building should do community work for school. Do you agree? Explain your ideas.

1 Find ideas

Make notes about:
- your opinion on fines. Are they a good punishment?
- any other ideas to encourage people to behave responsibly.
- your conclusion.

2 Plan and write

- Organise your ideas into paragraphs. Use the essay in Exercise 1 to help you.
- Write a draft essay.

3 Check

- Check language: did you use connectors correctly?
- Check grammar: did you use the passive correctly?
- Write the final version of your essay.

LIVEWORKSHEETS