

- 1 Read the essay quickly and choose the best title.
- Should we send people to Mars?
 - Is space exploration a good thing?
 - Which planet should we visit next?

- 4 Look at the essay in Exercise 1 again and number the parts of it 1–4.
- advantages conclusion
 disadvantages introduction

- 5 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 To sum 4 The main
 2 One reason for 5 Finally, it could
 3 Nowadays more and

- disadvantage is a lack of technology.
- be a stepping stone for further space exploration.
- up, I believe space exploration is a good idea.
- doing this is to find another planet to live on.
- more people believe we should travel in space.

- 6 Complete the notes with the words and phrases below.

dangerous expensive new forms population
 problems to-save

Should we spend money on finding another planet to live on?

For:

- *might not be able* ¹ *to save this planet*
- *discover* ² *of life*
- *growing* ³ *on Earth and limited space*

Against:

- *too* ⁴ *- billions of dollars*
- *on Earth more urgent* ⁵
- *too* ⁶ *- could die in space*

WRITING TIME

- 7 Write an essay answering the question in Exercise 6.

1 Find ideas

Make notes for your essay. Think about:

- a short introduction and conclusion.
- your reasons for and against, and your final decision.

2 Plan and write

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

3 Check

- Check language: have you used linkers of addition?
- Check grammar: have you used any conditionals?
- Write the final version of your essay.

1 ¹ *Many people believe* that the next step in space exploration is sending astronauts to Mars. It sounds exciting, but ² _____ it?

³ _____, we might discover things we need on Earth, like oil or gas. ⁴ _____, we already know that there is a lot of methane gas on Mars, and it can be used to make plastic. ⁵ _____ we could discover new forms of life. ⁶ _____ there is frozen water on Mars and possibly even running water. This may mean there are other forms of life there.

⁷ _____, a manned mission to Mars would be incredibly expensive, at over \$50 billion. The spacecraft would need to take food, water, oxygen and medical supplies, and these things would have to be launched into space. ⁸ _____ we could spend this money on solving the problems we already have on Earth. ⁹ _____, it's very dangerous. We don't know the effects of being in space and of weightlessness on the human body for such a long period of time. In ¹⁰ _____, the possible human cost is too great a risk.

¹¹ _____, while living on Mars might seem like a good idea, I think we have big problems to solve on Earth first.

- 2 Complete gaps 1–6 in the essay with phrases a–f.

- For example
- Many people believe
- It seems
- Another advantage is that
- is it worth
- On the one hand

- 3 Complete gaps 7–11 in the essay with phrases a–e.

- my opinion
- To sum up
- I believe
- On the other hand
- Moreover