

Academic English 1: Writing Essays

Practice 1 – Introductions

Task 1: Choose the best introduction

For the essay question "Should schools ban mobile phones during class time?", choose the best introduction below. Why is it the best? Can you improve it?

A. Mobile phones are used in almost every school today, and many students rely on them for both communication and entertainment. However, some people believe they should be banned completely. This essay will explain why they are not always good in the classroom.

B. While mobile phones can provide educational tools like calculators or research access, their use during lessons often leads to off-task behaviour and distractions. As a result, this essay argues that schools should restrict mobile phone use in class to protect learning time and improve student focus.

C. Some students need their phones to contact parents, but others just scroll through social media during class. Mobile phones are both helpful and harmful, and teachers have different opinions. This essay will look at the pros and cons of banning them.

Task 2: Identify the Hook, Background, and Thesis

Read the following introduction. Identify the hook, background information, and thesis statement. Do you need to add or amend any information?

Technology is changing how students learn every day. This essay argues that using technology in education helps improve learning and prepares students for future jobs.

Task 3: Improve the thesis statement in this introduction

*Read the weak introduction below. Rewrite just the **thesis statement** to make the argument clearer and more effective. Don't write a hook or background information.*

I think mobile phones are bad. They are used too much. This essay will talk about how people use them.

Your improved thesis statement:

Task 4: Write a Thesis Statement

Write a thesis statement for one of these topics:

1. Should junk food be banned in colleges and universities?
2. Should mobile phones be banned in class?

Thesis Statement:

Task 5: Write Your Own Introduction

Choose one of the topics in task 4 and now write an introduction with a hook, background information, and your thesis statement from task 4.

Write your introduction: