

WRITING

An opinion essay

- 1 ★ Read the essay. Which environmental problem in the photos (a–c) does the writer think is the most serious?

Our most serious environmental problem

There are many environmental problems nowadays and it is difficult to know which one is the most important. Some people ¹ *believe* that we should protect the rainforests. Other people might think that we need to stop using plastic. Which is the most important?

It would be good if we could solve both of these problems.

² _____, in my ³ _____, the most serious problem is air pollution. This is something that is getting worse in cities around the world. ⁴ _____, it has an effect on everyone as it is a major cause of ill health, especially in children.

In my ⁵ _____, the first step would be to reduce the number of cars in cities, as this is one of the biggest causes of pollution. In ⁶ _____ to this, we need to make more people use public transport or cleaner forms of personal transport like bicycles. We also need cleaner factories that don't produce dangerous gases which are bad for our health.

To ⁷ _____ up, if we have cleaner cities with cleaner air, we will all become healthier. We will also spend more time outdoors, exercising and enjoying our natural environment.

- 2 ★★ Complete the essay with the words in the box. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

addition believe Furthermore
However opinion sum view

- 3 ★★ Circle the correct options.

- 1 The first paragraph includes an introduction and a question / the writer's main opinion.
- 2 The second paragraph gives the writer's main / other people's opinion.
- 3 The third paragraph offers reasons for / possible solutions to the problem.
- 4 The last paragraph introduces / summarises the writer's opinion.



Write your own opinion essay.

PLAN

- 4 ★★ What do you think is the biggest environmental problem? Think of two ideas to support your opinion. Write notes.

Problem _____

Solution 1 _____

Solution 2 _____

- 5 Decide what information to include in each paragraph. Use the information in Exercise 3 to help you.

WRITE

- 6 Write your opinion essay. Remember to include four paragraphs, the first and second conditional, and words and phrases from the *Useful language* box (see Student's Book, p65).

CHECK

- 7 Do you ...
- have an introduction with a question for the reader to think about?
 - have ideas and examples to support your opinions?
 - have a conclusion to support your opinion?