Unit 7b page 108 A letter (to the editor) expressing an opinion

A. Discuss

1. Why do you think people write letters to the editors of newspapers and magazines?

comment	issues	opinion

To express their _____ and _____ on various _____.

2. Have you ever read any of these letters?

agreed	letters	writers

I have read such _____ and I _____ with the _____.

3. Would you consider writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper? Why/ Why not?

express	editor	free	consider	rights

Yes, I would because people must be _____ to _____ their opinion and fight for their _____.

No, I wouldn't _____ writing a letter to the _____ of a newspaper because it is not in my character, etc.

B. Read the extract from a newspaper article and the letter to the editor below.

Yesterday the mayor of Mayfield announced plans to build a modern shopping centre in Clifton Park. He says it will serve the needs of the residents and also attract shoppers from neighbouring towns. Many people are not happy with this decision. One resident, Mark Wilson, told us, 'We don't need a shopping centre! So many trees will be cut down if the mayor goes ahead with his plans. Clifton Park gives us the oxygen we breathe and it's where our children go to play. We need to save it at all costs.'

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a concerned resident and I am writing in response to your article about the mayor's plans to build a modern shopping centre in Clifton Park.

First of all, I must agree with the mayor that a shopping centre would be very convenient for everybody. In addition to creating more job opportunities, it would also offer us more options for entertainment. Who would say no to a cinema complex or a food court with different cuisines, for instance?

On the other hand, it is outrageous to even think of destroying Clifton Park. I am very disappointed that the mayor shows such a lack of sensitivity for environmental issues. Air pollution is a growing problem in Mayfield and as Mr Wilson points out, Clifton Park must be saved at all costs. Surely a more suitable location can be found for the shopping centre – for example, the abandoned warehouses behind the train station.

In conclusion, we do not need to destroy Clifton Park in order to build the new shopping centre. If we consider the alternative solutions more carefully, we can find one that is acceptable to everyone in Mayfield.

Yours faithfully,

PWoodhouse

Paula Woodhouse

Do you agree with the writer?

logical	Mayfield	agree

I _____ with the writer because she sounds _____ and wants what's best for _____.

C. Read the following sentences. Tick the ones that apply to the letter above.

The writer:

1. uses an appropriate greeting and signature ending. ◯
2. explains why she is writing in the first paragraph. ◯
3. uses rude language. ◯
4. justifies her opinion and gives examples. ◯
5. uses rhetorical questions for emphasis. ◯
6. refers to specific points made in the newspaper article. ◯
7. expresses her opinion in an aggressive manner. ◯
8. makes suggestions. ◯
9. uses linking words / phrases. ◯
10. writes in a formal style. ◯

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. Read the writing task below and discuss the questions that follow in pairs or groups. Then complete the mind map.

You read this article in a local newspaper. Write a letter to the editor expressing your views on the issue.

According to a survey that was carried out among the residents of our city last month, litter is the number one problem our city faces. It is a fact that streets are overflowing with rubbish and it is even impossible to enjoy our parks and beaches because of the problem. At a protest demonstration held outside the city hall yesterday, one angry protester asked our reporter, 'Whose responsibility is it to keep this city clean? Isn't it time the mayor did something about it?' That is a good question, but aren't we all responsible for keeping our cities clean?

1. Why do you think there is so much litter around?

overflowing	aren't enough	irresponsibly	pedestrians	responsible	dustmen

I think that we are all partly _____ for the problem of litter. Both drivers and _____ litter without even thinking about it. The fact that there _____ rubbish bins available obviously makes things worse. It leads to people acting _____ and makes them careless in how they get rid of their rubbish The problem is made worse by the fact that there aren't enough _____ to collect it. As a result, streets, parks and beaches are _____ with rubbish.

2. What kind of problems does it create?

smell	health	ugly	difficult

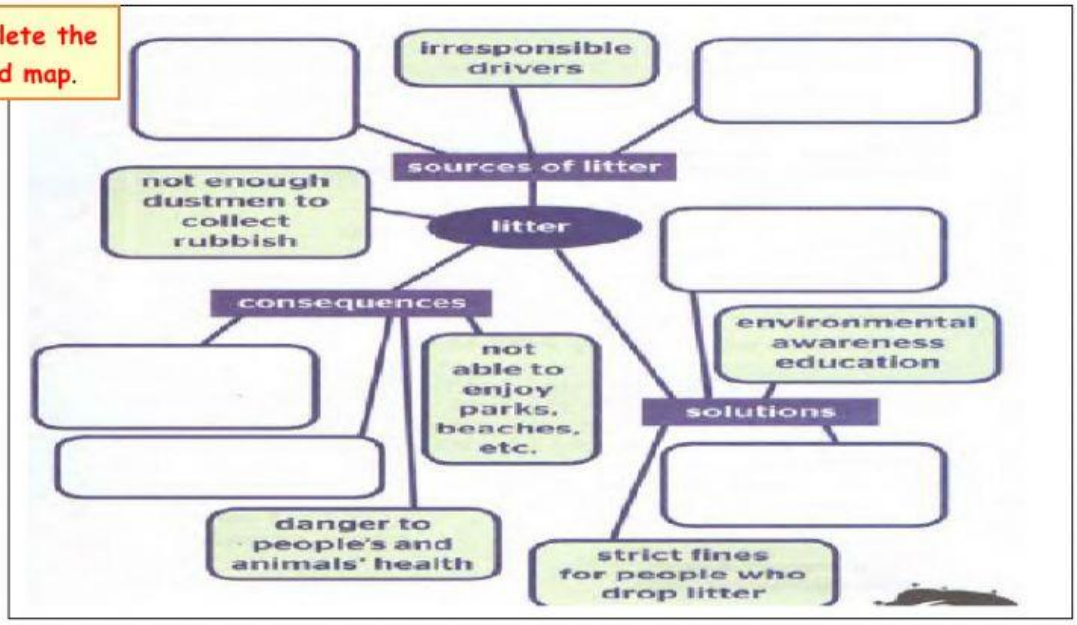
The fact that our parks and beaches are overflowing with rubbish makes it _____ for us to enjoy them. These places, as well as the streets in some areas, _____ bad and are _____ to look at. Most importantly however, they are a threat to the _____ of the locals and animals that live there.

3. What do you think can be done about it?

recycling	awareness	reduce	solutions	energy	impose	increase

There are various _____ to this problem. Environmental _____ education can play a very important role by informing both children and adults about the importance of looking after the environment in which they live. In this way, more people may be encouraged to take part in _____ programmes, which help _____ the amount of rubbish we produce and help us save _____ and materials. Another way to discourage people from littering is to _____ strict fines. Besides this, we can _____ the amount of rubbish bins available. In this way, people will be less likely to litter.

Complete the mind map.



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