1H Writing

Opinion essay

I can write an opinion essay.

1 Complete the personality adjectives with the words below.

effacing minded narrow self skinned tempered

1 self-[ ]
2 [ ]-minded
3 thick-[ ]
4 [ ]-assured
5 broad-[ ]
6 quick-[ ]

2 Complete the definitions with the personality adjectives below.

gullible placid punctual reserved shrewd spontaneous

1 A [ ] person is always on time.
2 A [ ] person is clever and perceptive.
3 A [ ] person remains calm.
4 A [ ] person does not show their feelings.
5 A [ ] person believes anything you tell them.
6 A [ ] person acts on impulse and shows their feelings.

Writing Strategy

When you write an opinion essay, remember to:

- avoid informal words and expressions.
- link your ideas together in a logical way using appropriate adverbs and conjunctions.
- divide your essay into clear paragraphs.
- state your conclusion in the final paragraph.

3 Read the Writing Strategy. Then read the essay and answer the questions.

1 Which word or phrase in paragraph 1 is too informal? What should replace it?

[ ]

2 Which of these linking adverbs best fits the gap in paragraph 2? [ ]

however indeed instead nonetheless

4 Paragraph 3 should be two paragraphs. Where should the final paragraph begin? Write the first four words.

[ ]

Do role models help to shape your personality as you grow up?

5 Read the task and think about your opinions. Plan an essay with these four paragraphs:

1 introduction
2 points relating to one side of the argument
3 points relating to the other side of the argument
4 conclusion, including your overall opinion

Can a difficult childhood sometimes have a positive effect on your personality?

Although some aspects of your personality are present from birth, the things you experience during childhood undoubtedly have an effect on your character. So if you have loads of bad experiences, what effect does that have?

Sometimes, having to face problems when you are young can make you more thick-skinned. _____, children who never encounter any difficulties or challenges cannot develop the strength of character they will need as adults. In other words, you only become self-assured by discovering that you can cope when things go wrong. If nothing ever goes wrong, how can you become self-confident?

However, while certain challenges in your childhood may help to build a strong character, very traumatic or upsetting events may cause lasting damage. For example, a child who suffers violence at the hands of adults may grow up to distrust everyone. Consequently, they might be unable to form normal relationships or lead a happy life. For people like this, a difficult childhood would certainly not have a positive effect on their personality. So to sum up, I believe that a certain amount of difficulty during childhood can have a positive effect on your personality by making you more confident and determined. However, a traumatic childhood would probably cause damage to your personality and make it difficult to become a happy, well-balanced adult.

6 Write your essay (220–260 words) using your notes from exercise 5.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you ...

- [ ] used appropriate language in your essay?
- [ ] checked your spelling and grammar?
- [ ] included conjunctions and linking adverbs to connect your ideas in a logical way?

LIVEWORKSHEETS