

Before you start writing (anything) ...

- No matter if it's basic, extended or bilingual level **write an OUTLINE!**
- To begin with, note down the **words and phrases** that came to your mind just after reading the topic.
- Remember about the **proper structure** of your writing.

What's the difference?

1. Niektórzy rodzice dają nastolatkom kieszonkowe za wykonywanie obowiązków domowych. Napisz rozprawkę, w której przedstawisz dobre i złe strony takiego rozwiązania.
2. Coraz więcej osób decyduje się na zajęcia fitness przez internet. Napisz rozprawkę, w której przedstawisz swoją opinię na temat takich zajęć, odnosząc się do następujących aspektów:
 - wygoda
 - motywacja

Opinion essay vs. argumentative essay ? 🤖

Opinion essay.

Structure and tips.

1. **Introduce** your essay by stating whether you agree or disagree with the statement or question. (Quote?)
2. If the essay asks you *to what extent do you agree?* **Make your opinion clear throughout.** You can either agree, partially agree or disagree with the statement, explaining and justifying your opinion.
3. **The structure** should be:
 - Introduction
 - The first reason why you agree/disagree
 - The second reason why you agree/disagree

- The third reason why you agree/disagree (optional)
 - Counterargument (optional)
 - Conclusion
4. **Use phrases to organise and link your ideas**, e.g. *Owing to ... , One justification for ... , The first thing to consider is ... , A further reason ... , In conclusion*
 5. **If you do not have solid evidence for your ideas, use modal verbs such as *might, may or could*** (e.g. *they could develop more empathy and care*) or other phrases (e.g. *it does not appear to be an effective punishment*).
 6. **Conclude** by restating your opinion and summarising your two or three main arguments.

CLICK!

For and against (argumentative) essay

Structure and tips

- 1 **Introduction.** The introduction must include the presentation of an unbiased thesis - the writer does not express his own opinion here. This is a very important rule that you must not forget! (Quote?)
2. **Arguments for.** As a rule, "pro" arguments - the advantages are presented first. When preparing an outline of your essay, write down two to three arguments supporting the thesis described.
3. **Arguments against.** In the third paragraph, the "against" arguments should be presented. There should be as many of them as there are "for" arguments, i.e. two or three.
4. **Conclusion.** The last paragraph is the conclusion, where you should summarize your statement. **This is the only place in the entire text where the writer can express his opinion on the thesis under discussion.**
5. **Use phrases to organise and link your ideas**, e.g. *There has been a lot of discussion in the media about... , The main/first/the most important*

advantage of ... is ..., *On the other hand ...* , *The main drawback of... is...* ,
Having considered both sides of the argument

6. If you do not have solid evidence for your ideas, use modal verbs such as ***might, may or could*** (e.g. *they could develop more empathy and care*) or other phrases (e.g. *it does not appear to be an effective punishment*).

When you finish writing (anything) ...

A final checklist:

- ✓ appropriate structure
- ✓ a variety of language is present
- ✓ the length is appropriate (i.e. word count)
- ✓ no errors or slips (double check)
- ✓ examples/evidence to support your ideas

What are discourse markers?

CLICK!

Opinion essay - practice

TASK 1 Writing C1: An opinion essay. Are the sentences true or false?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. The first paragraph should explain the question in your own words. | True False |
| 2. You shouldn't give your opinion until the conclusion. | True False |
| 3. You must always give both sides of the argument. | True False |

4. Structures like 'One justification for ...' and 'The first thing to consider is ...' link ideas together, and help the reader follow your argument. **True False**

5. Modal verbs (e.g. 'may' in 'Prison may not be an effective punishment') make sentences sound more certain. **True False**

6. If you think of an extra idea, mention it in the conclusion. **True False**

TASK 2 Writing C1: An opinion essay Complete the sentences.

The first thing to consider	It could be argued that	One justification for
However	Personally	Owing to
	In conclusion	A further reason to

1. _____ is what the purpose of prison is.
2. _____ harsh prison sentences is that they act as a deterrent. _____, there is very little evidence to support this claim.
3. _____ justify putting people in prison is to keep them away from society.
4. _____, I believe that prison should aim to rehabilitate people and reform violent criminals so they are less likely to reoffend.
5. _____ prison works mainly as a punishment.

_____ overcrowded, cramped and sometimes violent conditions, prison is not a pleasant place to be.

6. _____, prison may not do everything that we want it to do but it does serve as an unpleasant punishment.

TASK 3 Writing C1: An opinion essay Choose the three correct answers.

Which sentences are more tentative?

Prison sentences are more effective in 29 per cent of cases.

It seems that prison sentences are more effective.

It might be argued that unpaid work exploits criminals.

Unpaid work exploits criminals.

This may suggest that the criminal is not a danger to others.

These kinds of criminals are no danger to others.

TASK 4 Writing C1: An opinion essay - Useful vocabulary

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. harsh
2. a perpetrator
3. to deter someone from doing something
4. to reoffend
5. rehabilitative
6. empathy

Definition

- a. someone who has committed a crime or a violent act
- b. the ability to understand how other people feel
- c. able to bring someone back to health or a normal life
- d. strict; severe
- e. to make someone avoid or stop doing something
- f. to commit a crime again (not for the first time)

TASK 5. Writing C1: An opinion essay

Discuss and make an outline.

Some people think that some types of criminals should not go to prison. Instead they should do unpaid work in the community. To what extent do you agree?