

HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

In English, we normally find two types of essay:

1. PROS & CONS (Advantages vs. disadvantages)
2. OPINION ESSAY

NOTE: They both are written into paragraphs, but the way they are organized changes in terms of content, approach and style.

PROS & CONS ESSAY	OPINION ESSAY
<p>Introduction: background information about the topic. The main idea is presented in a general and neutral way. NO PERSONAL OPINION in this paragraph.</p>	<p>Introduction: the writer's personal opinion about the prompt is stated straightaway.</p>
<p>Body: the advantages and disadvantages are stated in different paragraphs. We frequently use <i>On the one hand</i> to refer to advantages, and <i>On the other hand</i> to present the disadvantages.</p> <p>In this section, <u>reasons</u> and <u>examples</u> to enrich the advantages and disadvantages, as well as linkers and adverbs should be used.</p>	<p>Body: the proper opinion about the topic has to be reasoned with topic sentences in each paragraph. Therefore, each topic sentence will have a supporting sentence (or more than one) and some examples.</p> <p><i>Example: Do you think mobile phones are dangerous for children?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Intro: your opinion.2. Topic sentence 1 (1st idea that supports your opinion), is followed by 1 or 2 supporting sentences. In other words, they are the reason(s) which reinforce your first idea. Then, some examples could be quite meaningful to reflect your opinion.3. Topic sentence 2: same process.4. Conclusion: your opinion and the main reasons presented are summarised for the reader to have a clear 'picture' of the ideas discussed in the writing.
<p>Conclusion: a balance needs to be done in this paragraph. We have to summarise the main ideas discussed and present an opinion based on its advantages and disadvantages mentioned above.</p> <p>Sometimes, a final reflection can be written to end up this essay by for example adding a rhetorical question or a normal reflection based on how the concrete topic has an impact on society or how this could eventually affect people in the future.</p>	