For & against essay

Introduction

Main body para 1: advantages
para 2: disadvantages

Conclusion

Introduction for for & against essays

- Rephrasing the topic
- Intention statement

Here are some useful expressions to help you start your introduction by rephrasing your topic:

- Nowadays, we are all becoming aware of (the fact that) ...
- In recent years the number of ... is on the increase.
- Recently, there is a tendency towards (+ing) ...
- ... has recently been a matter of debate between ... and ...
- Recently, there has been a great deal of controversy about ...
- It is a well-known fact that ...
- More and more (people / educators) today ...
- The trend of ... is gaining (in) popularity in recent years.

Here are some expressions you can use to express intention in your introduction:

- ... has both advantages and disadvantages, both of which will be examined below.
- ... provides several benefits, but it also has some drawbacks, many of which will be considered below.
- ... has both benefits and drawbacks, both of which will be considered below.
- ... has both benefits and drawbacks which should be taken into consideration / should not be ignored.

Main body

para 1: *Living on your own when you are a college student can be a very positive experience. (general)*
OR *One of the main advantages of going away to college is the sense of independence it offers. (specific)*

para 2: *On the other hand, leaving home to go to college has some drawbacks as well. (general)*
OR *On the negative side, going to college and changing your living environment at the same time can be overwhelming. (specific)*

Here are some useful expressions to help you list similar points:

- First of all, ...
- To begin with, ...
- Secondly, ...
- What is more, ...
- Moreover, ...
- Furthermore, ...
- Finally, ...
- The main / greatest advantage/drawback of ... is ...
- Another / An additional advantage/drawback of ... is ...

Here are some useful expressions to help you introduce disadvantages:

- On the other hand, there are considerable disadvantages to ...
- Despite its benefits, ... also has several limitations / drawbacks.
- Despite these advantages, ... exhibits some limitations / drawbacks as well.
- On the negative side, ...
- ..., however, has its disadvantages.

Here are some expressions to help you introduce your supporting sentences. Remember not to overuse them.

To explain a point

- this means that
- in other words
- that is to say
- to put it another way
- meaning that

Introducing examples

- for instance
- for example
- one striking / typical example of this is
- such as
- especially
- this is illustrated by

Showing result

- for this reason
- as a consequence
- because of this
- therefore
- as a result
- consequently

- Summarize your arguments
- State your opinion directly or indirectly OR give a balanced judgment
- End with a comment / warning / condition / hope / rhetorical question

Below are some expressions to start your conclusion. You can express your opinion directly or indirectly or give a balanced judgment.

- All in all, ...
- On balance, ...
- All things considered, ...
- To sum up, ...
- In conclusion, / To conclude, ...
- Taking everything into account / consideration, ...

Expressing opinion directly

- I feel / believe / think that ...
- I am inclined to believe that ...
- I (do not) agree that / with ...
- I am (not) convinced that ...
- It is my opinion / belief that ...

Opinion indirectly / Balanced judgment

- It seems / appears that ...
- It may be concluded that ...
- It is clear / obvious that ...
- ... has many benefits but its limitations should be taken into account (before/if) ...
- Although it cannot be denied that .... one should also bear in mind that ....

LINKING WORDS

The following linking words will help you express yourself more clearly and avoid repetition. Remember not to overuse them.

Agreeing partially

- to a certain extent / degree
- to some extent / degree
- in a way / sense
- this is partly true (but)
- there is some truth to (this)
- in some cases
- up to a point

To express intention

- so as to
- in order to
- so that
- with the intention of (+ ing)

To express cause

- due to (the fact that)
- on account of
- on the grounds that
- given that
- because
- as / since

To emphasize a point

- Clearly, ...
- The fact of the matter is
- Actually
- In practice
- In effect

Using various subjects

- some / many / most people
- experts / scientists / critics
- proponents / governments
- opponents / skeptics

claim / suggest / argue / feel that
maintain / believe / point out / agree
advocate (+ ing / noun)
support / oppose the view that
are in favor of / against
are of the opinion that
are convinced that