

OPINION ESSAYS

Opinion essays are formal in style. They require your opinion on a topic which must be clearly stated and supported by reasons.

A successful opinion essay should have:

a) INTRODUCTION

Paragraph 1: You state the topic and your opinion clearly.

b) MAIN BODY

Paragraph 2: Viewpoint 1 supported by your reasons.

Paragraph 3: Viewpoint 2 supported by your reasons (you can include contrasting points of view)

c) CONCLUSION

Paragraph 4: You restate your opinion using different words.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- First decide whether you agree or disagree with the subject of the topic and make a list of your points and reasons.
- Write well-developed paragraphs consisting of more than one sentence.
- Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarizes what the paragraph is about.
- Linking words should be used throughout your composition.

USEFUL LANGUAGE:

- To express opinion: I believe, In my opinion, I think, In my view, I strongly believe, The way I see it, It seems to me (that)
- To list points: In the first place, first of all, to start with, Firstly, to begin with, To add more points: what is more, another major reason, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this, not to mention the fact that

- To introduce contrasting viewpoints: It is argued that, People argue that, Opponents of this view say, There are people who oppose, Contrary to what most people believe, As opposed to the above ideas
- To introduce examples: for example, for instance, such as, in particular, especially
- To conclude: To sum up, All in all, All things considered, Taking everything into account

Example (taken from the internet)

Is laughter the best medicine?

It is well-known that happy people tend to live more. Many different scientists and researchers from all around the world claim that this statement is completely true. Personally, I firmly trust scientific procedures, so I agree with them. But is laughter the best medicine?

To start with, there's no doubt that laughter is the cure for moody people. The more they laugh, the less highs and lows they will have. Laughter may also be a solution for depressive people unless they suffer from a serious brain problem. If laughter is helpful for this sort of people, why wouldn't it be positive for anyone?

As a matter of fact, researchers have found that laughter activates more than six hundred muscles - most of them facial-. I wish laughter were the solution for those who don't want to go to the gym! Anyway, we have to take into account the benefits it has. Apart from the muscles, it makes our heart and our brain work better.

In conclusion, laughter might not be the cure for every illnesses, but its huge amount of benefits make me think that it is certainly a good way to improve our state of mind.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS --- OPINION ESSAY

EXPRESSING OPINIONS

In my opinion	En mi opinión
Personally, I think/ I believe (that)	Personalmente, creo que
I strongly believe that	Creo firmemente que
It is clear (to me) that	Me parece evidente que
I feel very strongly that	Siento firmemente que
I (completely) agree/disagree with	Estoy (totalmente) de acuerdo/ en desacuerdo con
It seems to me that	Me parece que
As I see it	Como yo lo veo
To my mind	En mi opinión
In my view	Desde mi punto de vista
From my point of view	Desde mi punto de vista
As far I am concerned	En cuanto a lo que a mí respecta
I am sure/ convinced that	Estoy seguro / convencido de que
In other words	En otras palabras
In that case	En ese caso
To put it simply	En pocas palabras
With this in mind	Teniendo esto en cuenta
To look at this another way	Mirándolo de otra manera
I personally feel that	Personalmente siento que
My personal view is that	Mi opinión personal es que
I (dis)agree with the statement, because	Estoy de acuerdo/ en desacuerdo con la afirmación porque

GIVING REASONS

My main reason is	Mi razón principal es
Another reason is	Otra razón es
One reason for... is	Una razón para... es
Many people say/ believe that	Mucha gente dice/ piensa que
Because	Porque
Since	Puesto que/ ya que
It is generally agreed that	Está generalmente aceptado que
According to	De acuerdo con
As...stated	Como dijo
To quote from	Citando a
Because of/ due to	Debido a

EXPRESSING FACTS

It is widely known that	Es ampliamente conocido que
It is a well-known fact that	Es un hecho bien conocido que
Research has shown that	La investigación ha demostrado que
There are definitely	Definitivamente hay
It is a fact that	Es un hecho que
It is clear/ true that	Está claro que/ es verdad que
For example/ for instance	Por ejemplo

ADDING IDEAS

What is more	Y lo que es más
Moreover/ furthermore/ in addition (to)	Además
Apart from (that)	Aparte de
Firstly	En primer lugar
First of all	En primer lugar
Secondly	En segundo lugar
Thirdly	En tercer lugar
Lastly	Por último
Finally	Finalmente

EXPRESSING CONTRAST (LINKERS OF CONTRAST)

ALTHOUGH (aunque)

Syria remains a one-party state although there is talk of ending this state of affairs

DESPITE (a pesar de)

Despite the remarkable low price the radio is professionally manufactured and has a rich set of accessories Water is a relatively inexpensive resources, despite the periodic droughts that affect this country.

IN SPITE OF (a pesar de)

In spite of which its dexterity and grip are not seen to be reduced.
In spite of all the obstacles and obstacles of different kinds, many trusted utterly in the future.

EVEN IF (incluso si)

Even if I had to send them with rags on, I would send them to school, Lucila said emphatically.

WHEREAS (mientras que)

Many United Nations agencies collected their GHG data for the first time in 2008, whereas some had been evaluating emissions since 2004.

HOWEVER (sin embargo)

I am not happy about a number of things it says, however.

IN CONTRAST

In contrast the accommodation and health costs increased.

BUT (pero)

But I once again would like to address you.

ON THE ONE HAND..... ON THE OTHER HAND (por una parte.... por la otra)

On the one hand, they are extremely rich. But on the other hand, they have lots of debts.

Expressions used in Conclusions

As can be seen	Como puede verse
To sum up	Para resumir
As shown above	como se muestra arriba
To conclude	Para concluir
after all	Después de todo
In Short	En resumen
Obviously	Obviamente
It is clear that	Está claro que
On the whole	En conjunto
All in all	En términos generales
In the long run	A la larga
In a word	En una palabra
On balance	En equilibrio
In either case	En cualquier caso
for the most part	En la mayor parte
In essence	en esencia