

FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY REVISITED – WORKSHEET A

Adapted from Log on@In frame 3, Školska knjiga, M. Doolan, S. Hindlaugh, K. Ivić-Doolan

1. Here are 4 possible introductions to an essay on the topic:

It is not true that we do not have enough time to do everything, we are just unable to organize our time well. Discuss.

1.... It is usually said when somebody complains about not having enough time to do everything they have to do. While we often complain that we simply lack time to do everything we need to do in a day, could it be that the main problem lies in our inability to organize ourselves?

2... But do we have enough of it? One can say that there are too many things to do in a day but one can also say that we just might be poor masters of our time.

4... If you have, then you either have a time management problem or you simply have too many things to do. Which of these two is actually true? Do we lack time or are we just bad managers of it?

3... So when he says he has no time for something, does it mean he really lacks time to do it or he simply fails to organize his time well? This is a question that can be answered from both points of view.

Match the beginnings (A-D) with the rest of the introductory paragraphs.

A Everybody has at least once in their life heard the saying „time flies“.

B According to recent research a modern teenager spends 40 hours a week in front of some kind of a screen, which is a whole working week.

C Have you ever stayed up all night to study for an exam and then fell asleep in the morning and slept through the exam?

D Time is something we all have in equal amounts every day – 24 hours a day. We can spend it, invest it, waste it, buy it – we ourselves decide what to do with it

2. Which introduction starts with

A a general statement about the topic?

B Statistics

C Quotation?

D A question?

3. Your teacher will show you a few writing topics from past examination papers. Write a thesis statement for the topics without copying the exact words. Try to think of 4 different topic sentences as shown above.

4. Read the following examples of body paragraphs and decide which of the two topic sentences is better for each paragraph.

1. Reading books for pleasure is a great way to learn new things.

2. There are three main ways of reading..

1. It is very difficult to learn how to speak English like a native speaker.

2. The way that native speakers speak English often makes them difficult to understand.

... The first is called 'skimming'. This is when you read quickly to get the main ideas. (1) The second way is called 'scanning', which is when you read something to get specific information. (2) The third is 'close reading', when you read all of an article or a book from start to finish (3). To be an efficient reader, you need to be skilled in all three ways of reading.

EXAMPLE 1

...?..To begin with, they often do not say all the words in a phrase which is sometimes confusing. (1) Also, they often use words and idioms that only people coming from their culture understand. (2) Moreover, many of them speak much faster and less carefully, than most non-native speakers and sometimes with an accent. (3) So it is no wonder that non-native speakers of English are often easier to understand than native speakers of English.

EXAMPLE 2

Decide where the details / support should go (1-3) in each paragraph.

EXAMPLE 1

a) University students need to read various sources to get the bits of information they need so they use this technique because they don't have time to read everything.

b) For example, we often read newspapers like this – we just skim through the articles to see if there is something that interests us.

c) We do this when we read for pleasure or to get a detailed view of what is written.

EXAMPLE 2

a) Such expressions are 'pukka', from Hindi, meaning 'very good' or 'been there, done that, got the T-shirt' meaning that something is not new to them.

b) This can be a real strain on the ear.

c) For example they might say 'Been swimming' instead of 'I have been swimming' and 'Been swimming?' instead of 'Have you been swimming?'

5. Look at the following examples of essay conclusions and decide which one is the best according to the rules about the structure of a good conclusion? What is wrong with the other two?

A In wrapping up, holding a part-time job has some benefits for older students like higher chances for later employment and extra financial security, but it also has some side-effects such as decreased school involvement and tiredness. In my opinion, a part-time job can be useful for a student but only if it doesn't have a negative effect on A student's determination to succeed at school.

B In conclusion, more and more young people have a part time job. There will always be advantages and disadvantages of having a part time job.

C In my opinion there should be limits to what students wear in school and everybody should know what is appropriate and what's not. What we wear is what we are and then it is OK to wear what we want because others can see who we are.

STRUCTURE OF A FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

- general statements about the topic
- thesis statement (paraphrased topic)

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

- topic sentence (FOR)
- argument 1 + support and examples
- argument 2 + support and examples
- argument 3 + support and examples
- concluding sentence (preferably)

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

- topic sentence (AGAINST)
- argument 1 + support and examples
- argument 2 + support and examples
- argument 3 + support and examples
- concluding sentence (preferably)

CONCLUSION

- summary of the main arguments from both body paragraphs
- your opinion

WORKSHEET B

IZREZATI NA TRAKICE I PODIJELITI UČENICIMA – RAD U PARU ILI GRUPI

D	From inventing the wheel to today's nanotechnology – man has not stopped creating to make progress.
A	Whereas many people believe there is no other way to a better future but through further development of technology, we can hardly be sure that technology doesn't have negative aspects as well.
C	On the one hand technology enables us to be positive about our future.
B	First of all, technological advances will make our lives more enjoyable.
F	Let's take, for example, robotics.
E	Soon, we will be able to have domestic robots for household chores and we and forget all about vacuuming or taking out the garbage.
H	Secondly, thanks to technology, communication is going to improve.
L	In the future, we will be doing everything over social networks – from everyday shopping, to doctor's appointments and studying.
R	Surely we may conclude that technological development does ensure a better future for mankind.

G	However, there's room for some pessimism about our future because of technology.
K	Firstly, the development of technology is unpredictable and we are not aware of the dangers it might bring.
J	To illustrate this, when Nobel invented dynamite, he didn't know people would use it for destruction.
N	Moreover, many people might lose their jobs because new technology will replace them.
I	For instance, robots can work 24/7 without having to eat or rest, so people will become unnecessary.
O	Indeed, due to technological advances, we could expect a worrisome future.
M	To conclude, while we can be optimistic about our future because technology will improve many aspects of our lives, robot helpers and advanced communication being some of them, it also gives us reasons to be concerned because it brings threats to our security and employability.
P	Personally, I want to believe that technology will only bring us positive things but we should be aware that our future with technology is uncertain at best.

Some people say that technological advances mean a better and a brighter future. Others disagree.

IN YOUR GROUP WRITE AN ESSAY ON THE GIVEN TOPIC. YOU CAN DIVIDE THE GROUP INTO SMALLER SUBGROUPS THAT WILL EACH WRITE ONE PART OF THE ESSAY, OR THE WHOLE GROUP CAN WRITE THE ESSAY TOGETHER.

The internet is bad for friendships and relationships. Discuss.

BRAINSTORM: (jumbled arguments)

- _____ You can make a lot of friends very easily.
- _____ It's difficult to know if people are being honest.
- _____ You make friends with people you wouldn't usually meet.
- _____ You can meet people from all over the world.
- _____ You need a computer and a good internet connection.
- _____ You have to wait for a reply when you make a comment.
- _____ It is less interesting because you can't go out to different places together.
- _____ It is easier to find people who share the same interests as you.

Write F (for) or A (against) next to each argument.

Plan the second and the third paragraphs for the essay title – choose two arguments for and two against and think of a supporting statement or an example for each argument.

Plan what to write in which part of the essay with the rest of your group.

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CHECK LIST FOR THE ESSAY

Put a tick (✓) if the sentence is correct for the essay you are reading, put a minus (-) if it doesn't		
TASK COMPLETION		
The essay has an introduction, two body paragraphs and a conclusion.		
The introduction contains general statements about the topic and a thesis statement.		
The conclusion contains a summary of the main points and a personal opinion.		
There are at least two arguments with support in each of the body paragraphs.		
COHERENCE AND COHESION		
There are 4 paragraphs in the text.		
Each paragraph is graphically separated from the previous and the following one.		
Body paragraphs start with a topic sentence which announces what the paragraph is going to be about.		
The writer's opinion is given in the conclusion and not in any of the other paragraphs.		
The sentences within the paragraphs follow each other in a logical way.		
The flow of ideas is easy to follow thanks to the usage of linking words.		
The linking words are used appropriately.		