

Opinion essays are discursive essays in which you present your personal opinion on a particular topic. Your opinion must be stated clearly and supported by justifications. You should also present the opposing viewpoint(s) in a separate paragraph.

An opinion essay should consist of:

- a) an **introduction**, in which you introduce the subject and state your opinion clearly;
 - b) a **main body**, consisting of two or more paragraphs (each presenting a separate viewpoint supported by reasons/examples), including a paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint supported by reasons/examples; and
 - c) a **conclusion**, in which you restate your opinion using different words.
- You normally use **present tenses** in this type of writing, and phrases such as *I believe*, *In my opinion*, *I think*, *It seems to me that*, *I strongly disagree with*, etc to express your opinion. You should list your viewpoints with *Firstly*, *Furthermore*, *Moreover*, *Also*, etc, and introduce the opposing viewpoint using *However*, *On the other hand*, etc.
 - Opinion essays are normally written in a **formal style**, therefore you should avoid using colloquial expressions, short forms or personal examples. You can find this type of writing in the form of an article in newspapers, magazines, etc.

Introduction

Paragraph 1

introduce the subject and state your opinion clearly

Main Body

Paragraph 2

first viewpoint and reasons/examples

Paragraph 3*

second viewpoint and reasons/examples

Paragraph 4*

opposing viewpoint and reasons/examples

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

restate your opinion, using different words

* The number of paragraphs in the main body depends on the number of viewpoints included.

Example!

English and Maths are more important subjects than Art and Music

Introduction

Isn't it unfortunate that in today's society there are so many people who cannot read, write or even do arithmetic? I strongly believe that, although subjects such as Art and Music are important, English and Maths are the most fundamental part of our education.

Para 1
.....
.....

Main Body

In the first place, when you know how to read, write and do simple calculations, you have the tools required in order to deal with everyday matters. For example, being able to read and write can help you communicate and express yourself clearly. Moreover, you need basic maths for such daily chores as doing your shopping, paying your bills and managing your money.

Para 2
.....
.....

Furthermore, it is essential to have a good knowledge of English and Maths in order to find even the simplest job. Reading, writing and mathematical skills are the minimum requirements that most employers demand.

Para 3
.....
.....

On the other hand, it can be argued that Art and Music are just as significant as English and Maths. For instance, learning how to draw or play an instrument can introduce a child to a whole new world. In addition to this, subjects such as Art and Music can provide children with a well-rounded education rather than just basic skills.

Para 4
.....
.....

Conclusion

All things considered, though, it seems to me that English and Maths are vital subjects. Without learning to read, write or do arithmetic, people may have difficulties coping with even the simplest tasks in daily life.

Para 5
.....
.....