

AN OPINION ESSAY

A.- PLAN

PARAGRAPH 1

Introduce the topic and give your opinion. Say whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

PARAGRAPH 2

Give a reason to support your opinion.

PARAGRAPH 3

Give a second reason to support your opinion.

PARAGRAPH 4

Summarize your ideas and repeat your opinion using different words.

BASIC DOS IN WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY

Introduce each paragraph with a topic sentence, outlining the main ideas.

Do not write about advantages or disadvantages or points for or against.

Write in formal style.

BASIC DON'TS IN WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY

Don't use colloquial expressions.

Don't use short forms.

Don't use emotive vocabulary.

Don't give personal examples.

B.- VOCABULARY

EXPRESSING OPINIONS

GIVING REASONS

In my opinion, ...	My main reason is....
Personally, I think/ I believe (that)...	Another reason is...
I strongly believe that....	One reason for... is
It is clear (to me) that...	Many people say/ believe that...
I feel very strongly that...	Because...
I (completely) agree/disagree with ...	Since...
It seems to me that...	Because of/ due to...
As I see it, ...	
To my mind....	
In my view,...	
From my point of view, ...	
As far I am concerned, ...	
I am sure/ convinced that ...	
I (dis)agree with the statement, because ...	

EXPRESSING FACTS	ADDING IDEAS
<i>It is widely known that...</i>	<i>What is more,...</i>
<i>It is a well-known fact that ...</i>	<i>Moreover/ furthermore/ in addition (to)</i>
<i>Research has shown that...</i>	<i>Apart from (that)...</i>
<i>There are definitely...</i>	<i>Firstly,...</i>
<i>It is a fact that...</i>	<i>First of all,...</i>
<i>It is clear/ true that...</i>	<i>Secondly,..</i>
<i>For example/ for instance,...</i>	<i>Lastly,...</i>

EXPRESSING CONTRAST (LINKERS OF CONTRAST)	
ALTHOUGH (<i>aunque</i>)	<i>Although I was feeling depressed, I went to the party.</i>
DESPITE (<i>a pesar de</i>)	<i>Despite the rain, I went to the party. Despite feeling depressed, I went to the party.</i>
IN SPITE OF (<i>a pesar de</i>)	<i>In spite of the rain, I went to the party. In spite of feeling depressed, I went to the party.</i>
EVEN IF (<i>incluso si</i>)	<i>I will go to the party, even if I feel depressed.</i>
WHEREAS (<i>mientras que</i>)	<i>Adults can make their own decisions, whereas teenagers have to do what other people tell them.</i>
HOWEVER (<i>sin embargo</i>)	<i>Mike is a very good singer. However, he can't play any instruments.</i>
IN CONTRAST	
BUT (<i>pero</i>)	<i>Their music is very good. But, their lyrics are not very interesting.</i>
ON THE ONE HAND..... ON THE OTHER HAND (<i>por una parte.... por la otra</i>)	<i>On the one hand, they are extremely rich. But on the other hand, they have lots of debts.</i>

EXPRESSING PURPOSE (LINKERS OF PURPOSE)	
We use linkers of purpose to introduce reasons:	
SO (THAT)	<i>I have brought a microphone so that the audience will be able to hear us.</i>

IN ORDER TO	<i>We need to register with the council in order to vote.</i>
TO	<i>I am phoning to ask information about the event.</i>
SO AS TO	<i>We all need to vote so as to express our opinions.</i>

CONCLUDING THE ESSAY

TO SUM UP,...	
TO CONCLUDE,...	
IN CONCLUSION,...	
IT IS CLEAR THAT...	
IN SHORT	
ON THE WHOLE	
ALL IN ALL,...	

C.- EXAMPLE

“The teenage years are the best years of your life”. Do you agree?

People often say that the teenage years are the best years of your life. **However**, I do not agree with the statement.

Firstly, most teenagers have little independence. They have to do what they are told by their parents and teachers. **In addition**, they usually do not have much money.

Secondly, teenagers may not have the responsibilities adults have, **but** they have other worries. Teenagers have a lot of pressure from exams, which can determine the rest of their life.

All in all, teenagers have a lot of fun, **but** I believe that the best years of your life come when you are a bit older, with a job, money and the freedom to do what you like.