



# **101 Essays**

**IELTS Writing Task 2  
(General / Academic)**

**(Version 1)**

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## Preface

As you probably know, we get essays sent to us by students every day and apart from the English part of writing (grammar, syntax, punctuation, vocab, etc) one of the main reasons that students get a low score is that they fall down on Task Response and Cohesion and Coherence. That is to say, they do not address the question properly, and often use an incorrect structure when writing. They may write about both views when the question asks them to give an opinion, or they might be too general or not directly answer the question as clearly as possible.

For a Band 9.0, the criteria say 'All parts of the prompt are appropriately addressed' and 'A clear and fully developed position is presented which directly answers the question' Also, many students do not know how to start writing their introduction and the rest of the essay, this e-book aims to correct that uncertainty. By following these structures and samples you will write faster and easier than before.

One more thing, these structures are guidelines, not rules, there are many ways to write a high scoring essay. As long as you answer the question directly and give good reasons and examples, you will be fine, but these structures work. Our students tell us so. And the results speak for themselves.

So, happy writing!

Kevin.A.Dean  
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## Opinion Essay Structure

### Introduction

#### **1. Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

#### **2. Thesis Statement**

Answer the question and briefly say what you will be writing about in the coming body paragraphs. For example, in the question ‘**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?**’ if you dis/agree with the topic, directly say that you dis/agree with the statement. Then concisely give two reasons why you dis/agree.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **3. Topic Sentence**

Mention the first reason / idea that you outlined in the introduction.

#### **4. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

#### **5. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

#### **6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Body Paragraph 2

### **7. Topic Sentence**

Mention the second reason / idea that you outlined in the introduction

### **8. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **9. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

### **10. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Conclusion

### **11-12. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

**Essay #1 (Theme: Travel)**

***Governments should spend money on railways rather than road.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that governments ought to allocate more of their national budget to rail rather than to the roads.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement for two reasons: firstly, trains are faster, and secondly, they are more environmentally friendly.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic sentence**

Investing in a modern railway network will mean that it will be easier for people to travel around their country faster.

**Explain**

This is because train passengers do not have to deal with the congestion most road users experience everyday which increases average travel time. Also, trains can achieve much higher speeds than cars due to this fact. Consequently, people will spend less time commuting and will have more time available to use as they wish.

**Example**

For example, the British Government recently unveiled plans to connect cities in the North of England with London via a high-speed rail network which will reduce travelling times to the capital by half, allowing thousands of people in the Midlands easy access to London.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic sentence**

Additionally, locomotives tend to be less harmful to the environment than cars.

**Explain**

This is due to the fact that a train can carry hundreds of passengers which prevents the use of hundreds of internal combustion engines, thus reducing the amount of carbon emissions. If this is repeated every day over many different routes, the reduction in the carbon footprint would be significant.

**Example**

For instance, according to a recent news report, Ho Chi Minh City will soon open its first underground metro service aiming to reduce the number of cars and motorbikes on the road.

**Reinforcement**

It is hoped that one of the main benefits to the city will be a marked reduction in carbon dioxide levels due to the reduction in traffic.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the state should divert more funds to railway systems and spend less on road transportation as this will improve journey times and also be less harmful to the environment.

315 words

## Essay #2 (Theme: Travel)

***Nowadays airlines provide more benefits to the rich, often achieving this by reducing areas used by the economy class to provide more comfort to the first class passengers.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

### Introduction

#### **Paraphrase**

It is common these days for many airlines to provide a better quality of service to its wealthier passengers often at the expense of space in economy class.

#### **Thesis Statement**

I agree this is the case, and will argue that as air travel is a business, you essentially get what you pay for.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **Topic Sentence**

It is true that first class passengers get a higher level of service while travelling by plane.

#### **Explanation**

They often have greater leg room, better spaced out seating, free drinks, and other perks.

#### **Example**

To take leg room as an example, it has been confirmed by World Air magazine that many planes are designed to restrict leg space and seating in Economy class cabins by 40 % less to afford the greater luxury to First class.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, this should not be seen as unequal or unfair treatment on the part of the airline companies.

**Explanation**

We need to remember that these companies are a business and have to maximise profits, often by First class passengers who pay a lot more in comparison to economy class. The maxim "You get what you pay for" would apply here, for example, if you want more leg room or better service, then you have to be prepared to spend more money.

**Example**

When I fly back to the UK from Europe, I always fly Economy as I cannot afford First Class; I might not like it but I do not complain about First Class comforts.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, First Class passengers get more cabin room than Economy Class flyers for a simple reason: they pay more for a ticket. The solution is simple: if you want more leg room, save up and go First Class.

277 words

### Essay #3 (Theme: Education)

***University education should be free for everyone, regardless of income.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

It has been argued that attending university is a right that should be shared by every student, irrespective of whether they can pay for it.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, access to higher education should be available to all. This essay will discuss the benefits to society of an educated citizenry and will show that university education helps to guarantee certain rights.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Firstly, having more graduates is of obvious benefit to society.

**Explanation**

Having an educated workforce will lead to higher levels of innovation with consequent increases in the economy.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by Harvard Business School indicated that over 80% of young people involved in start-ups and creating their own online businesses had BA and in some cases MA degrees.

**Reinforcement**

The implication from this survey is that a higher level of education seems to be the norm for most entrepreneurs.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Additionally, having a high degree of education is a vital means to reduce exploitation.

**Explanation**

Without higher education, many people may lack the knowledge of their basic societal rights, such as rights in the workplace.

**Example**

A study by the Department of Education in the UK revealed that 80% of people seeking advice on employment issues from the Citizen's Advice Bureau had a minimal high school education.

**Reinforcement**

The implication of this research is that graduates had a greater knowledge of the legal rights they were allowed under the law.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the argument as to whether university education should be free for all is not a complicated one. In my view, this is a basic right which should be afforded regardless of income. The benefits are clear, a higher level of educated citizens results in greater innovation in the fields of business and enterprise, as well as a body politic which knows its basic rights and is not afraid to claim them.

301 words

**Essay #4 (Theme: Success)**

***Ambition is being emphasized in today's society.***

***How important do you think it is for those who want to succeed in their life?***

***Is it a positive or negative characteristic?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In the modern world, a great deal of emphasis is being laid on ambition.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, this is important as it is hard to achieve success without it. This essay will argue that, provided we are cautious, being ambitious can be a positive trait for achieving your life goals.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Many people dream of being successful; they dream of having a better job and money, but unfortunately for most people this remains a dream as they do not possess the will to reach for it.

**Explanation**

Ambition, then, is a powerful motivator, it can help to turn fantasy into reality.

**Example**

For example, the late Steve Jobs often remarked that without ambition, success is impossible, he had the drive and will to be a success, and he was.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

In my view, to be ambitious is a good thing if used in the right manner.

**Explanation**

That is to say, if we respect other people as we strive for success and not trample on them as so many unscrupulous people have in business, then ambition is a definitely a positive character trait to possess.

**Example**

For example, consider the well-known Chinese saying “ambition is a good servant but a bad master”. This is usually taken to mean that as long as we use it wisely and carefully and not let it over power us, the desire for success can be a strong motivational force to push us to reach our goals, whether, in business, academia, or whatever field of endeavour.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in today's world ambition is heavily promoted as a means to an end of living a successful life. I do agree that this is an important aspect of a person's personality to make fantasy into flesh, as it were. However, even though I believe it is a positive force for self-betterment, I would say that as people we need to err on the side of caution lest ambition consume us for the worse.

321 words

**Essay #5 (Theme: Art)**

***Creative artists should always be given the freedom to express their own ideas (in words, pictures, music, film) in whichever way they wish. There should be no public or government restrictions on what they do.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that people working in the creative arts ought to be free to express themselves however they wish, whether in words, pictures, music, or in film with no restrictions, either by the state or society.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, freedom of expression is a vital part of living in a free society and everyone, artists included, should have this right. This essay will argue that if you do not like something you are not obliged to read or watch it, and that no one has the right to suppress ideas.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

If we want to live in a free and open public society, then everyone must be able to express themselves however and in whatever medium they wish.

**Explanation**

This is especially true for artists whose thoughts and art have a wider audience than the average individual. Even though some may be shocked and offended, no one is forced to read, listen to, or watch, any material they do not like.

**Example**

For example, as a consumer, I have a choice, if I do not want to watch something on TV I disagree with, I can simply turn it off.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

For true freedom of expression to apply then artists must also be free to critique the state, without fear of suppression.

**Explanation**

That is to say, if a country wishes to be truly democratic, instead of paying lip service to such an ideal, then artistic license must be respected as proof that the state is truly a Demos.

**Example**

For example, in Russia recently, the trial of members of the punk band Riot on public decency charges was widely seen as an attack on the freedom to criticise the state.

**Reinforcement**

This action was condemned by other more liberal countries as a direct assault on democracy and free speech and taken as proof that Russia is an illiberal state.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, it is believed that artists should be able to freely express themselves in any medium, I firmly agree with this idea. No one is forcing people to read, listen, or watch anything which they may disagree with. Also, for this to apply, the state must not interfere in artistic license to make any kind of art they choose to.

336 words

### Essay #6 (Theme: Celebrity)

***Nowadays celebrities are more famous for their glamour and wealth than for their achievements, and this sets a bad example to young people.***

***To what extent do you agree with this statement?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

In the modern world many people are celebrated, not for their accomplishments but for their looks and wealth. Some would say, these kinds of people are not suitable to be role models for the younger generation.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement wholeheartedly. This essay will argue that, following such people leads to low self-esteem, and also fools youngsters into believing that hard work and talent are unnecessary.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

For many young people, the fabulous life of celebrities seems to be a wonderful way to live.

##### **Explanation**

However, as this lifestyle is unattainable for most, by trying to emulate their idols many youngsters may feel depressed and have low self-esteem. Especially for those children who are less popular and attractive, comparing their lives with so-called celebrities is a sure way to low self-worth.

##### **Example**

For example, a recent survey by the UK Department of Education showed that 80% of teenagers who self-harm did so due to feelings of inferiority caused by celebrity comparison.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Another consequence of this false hero worship is that some young people believe hard work and having some skill or talent is not needed.

**Explanation**

They are encouraged into thinking that looks and appearance trumps effort and study as a path to success. Instead of taking a suitable course of study and getting on the career ladder, many of the younger generation look to “talent” contests or reality TV shows as a way to become a “star”.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by The Guardian newspaper showed that over half of 18-25 year olds believed that good looks and a fashionable appearance were more important than educational qualifications in today’s world.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, many of today’s “celebrities” with their vacuous lives set a very bad example to many of today’s youth. I believe this has two main concerns, namely, low self-esteem and a false presumption that only looks are important in life.

312 words

## Essay #7 (Theme: Children)

***Some people think that children should learn to compete, but others think that they should be taught to cooperate with others.***

***What is your opinion?***

### Introduction

#### **Paraphrase**

According to some, children need to learn how to be cooperative with each other, whereas others would say that children should be taught to be competitive.

#### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, being able to compete and to cooperate are equally valuable life lessons for children. This essay will argue that both of these skills are required in school and later in work and should be seen as complementary to one another.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **Topic Sentence**

Being in competition with other children is important.

#### **Explanation**

Life is not fair and the lesson that to win and to be a success needs effort is something worth teaching in school.

#### **Example**

For example, in my old school we had to compete against each other to win praise from our teachers, and to gain high grades to please our parents.

#### **Reinforcement**

This was not to make some pupils feel superior to others but to instil in us a sense of what was to come in later life when we enter the workplace, in terms of promotion and progressing in our chosen careers.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, important though it might be to succeed and be the best in something, this is not the only lesson that children need to learn in school.

**Explanation**

To work as a team and help each other is just as significant and can be of value in school projects and of course in whatever job children may do in their future.

**Example**

For example, in many careers (such as in IT) the ability to be a “team player” is considered to be a pre-requisite for employment and the overly competitive candidate may find it difficult to find a job.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, there are differing views over what children need to be taught, to be competitive, or cooperative. I believe that both views are of equal validity for both school and adult life, and would argue that children should learn the value of each attribute as they complement both together.

316 words

### Essay #8 (Theme: Children)

***Some people believe that children's leisure activities must be educational, otherwise they are a complete waste of time.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

According to some, a child's free time activities have to have some educational value if they not to be a total waste of time.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this statement as children need to play without the pressure of constantly "learning", and also that leisure can include a wide range of things including physical activity.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Children need some time away from study and learning.

**Explanation**

That is to say, too much academic emphasis may have a negative impact on emotional development. Children need time to play and interact with other kids and develop vital social skills, not be learning all day long.

**Example**

For example, a study by the University of Bath in 2016 showed that children who were pressured by their parents and had only academic activities in their lives were three times as likely to suffer from anxiety and stress related illness in later life.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, as a young child is growing and developing, some kind of physical activity should be a part of their day and leisure time is the ideal time for this.

**Explanation**

Whether it be playing outside with friends, or doing some sport, physical movement is an excellent way to keep fit, keep weight off, and help a child get off to a good start in life. As well as this, exercise has an additional benefit in terms of scholastic performance.

**Example**

For example, the same survey mentioned above showed that children who had several hours of outdoor play a week, outperformed academically those who did not.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people believing that a child's free time must have some educational component, I cannot agree with this viewpoint. Too much study can be as harmful as too little if future emotional problems are to be avoided, and also some physical activities are a must for growing kids as it can relieve stress, improve school performance, and give them a sturdy and healthy foundation for their adult lives.

319 words

**Essay #9 (Theme: Parks)**

***It is important to construct common areas such as parks, playgrounds and squares in all towns and cities.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been said that the construction of communal recreational areas in every town and city is a matter of some importance.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this notion, and will argue that such places are necessary for providing space for exercise and play, especially for children, and also that cities with pleasant parks and squares are more inviting for visitors and tourists as well as locals.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

People not only need a roof over their head, a place to live, but also a place to play.

**Explanation**

Building open spaces where everyone, adults and children alike, can play games, do sports, helps to create a sense of community which is essential in the urban environment.

**Example**

For example, recognising this, in Germany, every town council has an urban planning department that looks for places where new green spaces can be built.

**Reinforcement**

The idea is to make urban living as pleasant as possible for all citizens



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Additionally, as many cities rely on tourists for a large percentage of their income, it would make sense to make their centres as green and welcoming as possible.

**Explanation**

No one wants to visit a grey, soul-less city with nowhere to go outdoors to sit and relax.

**Example**

To give a personal example, I often travel to Vienna at the weekend to enjoy the many parks and gardens they have in abundance in the city centre. The combination of the Danube, the historic buildings, and the many open green gardens are what makes this place such a magnet for visitors.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my view, the construction of community recreation spaces is a vital necessity for all urban areas. To provide much needed relaxation facilities, and to cater to visitors and tourists, I believe every town council should make such development a priority.

292 words

**Essay #10 (Theme: Sport)**

***Companies should provide sports and social facilities for local communities.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been suggested that sporting and leisure amenities for the community ought to be provided by local businesses.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this view, as businesses are not a charity, and those kind of facilities should be supplied by government instead, paid for by tax revenues.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Companies are in the business of making a profit, and providing a service to their customers, nothing more than this.

**Explanation**

I can see no reason whatsoever for a business to provide any facilities to the local community besides having a clean, well-organised shop or premises, and selling goods or services at competitive prices.

**Example**

For example, according to the legal requirements that constitute a company in the UK, companies have a legal duty to their shareholders to provide a profit dividend.

**Reinforcement**

If they were buying or building leisure centres, then this would have a significant negative impact on their shareholder obligations.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

I would agree that some amenities for exercise and sports are vital hubs for the community, but these should be provided by local government paid for out of tax money.

**Explanation**

One of the jobs of regional authorities is to build and maintain swimming pools, gyms, tennis courts, and similar places.

**Example**

For example, in the UK every citizen is obliged to pay Council Tax which goes specifically to local councils and is meant to pay for all localised services, including sports and leisure activities. Despite many people resenting having to pay this tax, they do so in the knowledge that it will be used for the general good.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, having convenient places to take part in sports and to relax are an important part of what makes a community, however, these should be supplied by the authorities with funding from tax revenues, not by companies who are not obligated to do so.

298 words

**Essay # 11 (Theme: Education)**

***In the future more people will be educated outside of the classroom.***

***Do you agree or disagree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Some people believe that the future of education lies not in the classroom, but outside of it.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, this statement is correct. This essay will argue that technological advances, along with the advantages of remote learning, means that traditional classroom based teaching will decrease significantly.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

As technology evolves, so do its potential uses, this is especially so in education.

**Explanation**

All that is required is internet access for a student to virtually attend a course, either in real time via a webinar, or asynchronously via downloaded content. More and more institutions are recognising this reality and are making their courses available either completely online, or with a strong online component.

**Example**

For example, MIT in America has made whole courses available for download for any registered student in the last year. This so-called “democratization” of higher education reflects the new reality of teaching and learning today.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Alongside this, the advantages of remote tuition are making more and more people turn towards it.

**Explanation**

Online courses are usually cheaper, or in the case of some subjects, free of charge. Also, if asynchronous they can be accessed anytime of the day or night, making time no longer a barrier to learning for many working people. This means that many students from less well-off parts of the world can now access quality courses as well as their better-off counterparts.

**Example**

For example, the University of Bath reports that 80% of students for its online MA in ESL are from non-western countries.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as more people turn to the internet for their learning traditional classroom teaching will inevitable decline. In my view, this is a positive development as computer technology means that cost, time, and distance will no longer bar potential students from education today.

290 words

**Essay #12 (Theme: Traffic)**

***The best way for governments to solve the problem of traffic congestion is to provide free public transport 24 hours per day, and seven days a week.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been suggested that the most effective way for the state to resolve the traffic congestion problem is by providing public transportation free of charge 24/7.

**Thesis Statement**

I do not believe this will solve this problem as drivers would still be reluctant to give up their vehicles, as they provide comfort and personal space which they are willing to pay for. A better choice would be to ban cars altogether from driving in cities.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

The argument that free cost travel on public systems would somehow stop congestion is not a realistic one.

**Explanation**

For many people driving a car is a choice, they do so as they like the comfort and convenience of having their own private space.

**Example**

For example, if we consider the cost of buying and maintaining a car, plus the taxes, insurance, not to mention the high cost of petrol, it is apparent that even now driving is more expensive than public transport in many countries. Yet despite this disparity, people still drive as they want to do so, not because of its price.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

A more realistic solution would be for the government to force drivers out of their cars in some way.

**Explanation**

Possibly by much higher taxes, or petrol prices, or by banning cars from driving in city centres which is usually where the congestion is.

**Example**

A good example is this is in Cambridge in the UK, where cars have barriers preventing them from entering the central areas and thus freeing the streets for buses and pedestrians.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my view, governments providing free transport at all hours will have no effect on congestion. A better way would be to ban cars from town and city centres altogether, thus leaving the streets congestion free.

288 words

### Essay #13 (Theme: Driving)

***Some say that because many people are living much longer, the age at which people retire from work should be raised considerably.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

As life expectancy around the world is generally increasing, some people believe that, consequently, the retirement age for pensioners should be similarly increased.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, this would be a negative development. This essay will argue that pensioners have earned the right to a comfortable retirement, and that governments need to rethink their tax and pension plans to take this into account.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

The fact that people are living longer should have no bearing on the retirement age.

##### **Explanation**

Many working people have spent 40 years or more in their job or profession and have earned the right to finally put work aside, having paid tax all their lives into the system. After 60 plus years of age, people are ready to live for themselves and pursue their interest and hobbies.

##### **Example**

For example, the UK retirement magazine Saga surveyed its readership and over 90% of its 500,000 readers were against making them work longer.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

If the consequences of a greater life-span are that governments need to make people work longer to pay for pensions, then an urgent rethink of state expenditure is required.

**Explanation**

A massive re-prioritising of where welfare goes should be conducted to ensure that the nation's pensioners should not be disadvantaged.

**Example**

For example, it is estimated that in the UK an added 1% tax on unemployment benefit and similar payouts would generate sufficient income to pay pensions for an extra ten years per person.

**Reinforcement**

This move would no doubt prove effective and highly popular.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as lives become longer, there is also a call for people to work longer. I think this is unnecessary as old people want to spend their twilight years with their families and their own pursuits. To this end, a change in pension arrangements and taxation should be undertaken by the government to ensure this.

301 words

**Essay #14 (Theme: Internet)**

***People get news from the Internet instead of reading newspapers or watching TV shows.***

***Do you think this is a positive or negative development?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

The main source of news for many people these days seems to be the internet rather than from television or newspapers.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, this is a positive step as online news is more current, and also is less open to bias or control than traditional sources of information.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

The main drawback of traditional news media is it is out of date, especially for the printed press.

**Explanation**

As printing takes place over night, what you read in the newspapers happened the day before, and as for TV news, that is scheduled at certain times of the day.

**Example**

For example, the flagship news show in the UK, the BBC nightly news programme News at Ten, is at ten pm in the evening. For those people who rely solely on these sources of information they are getting old news, whereas the internet using sites such as Twitter is virtually instant as it is supplied by its members.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, in many countries around the world, the traditional media outlets are either state controlled or owned by corporations sympathetic to government.

**Explanation**

As a consequence, this media either is heavily biased or totally subservient to the diktats of the politicians.

**Example**

For example, in Turkey currently, virtually all of the mainstream publications and TV channels are either state owned or compliant to government wishes. In that country nowadays, the only free press is the online websites run by free thinkers and liberals.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the internet has replaced the usual news outlets such as TV and the papers for many people. In my view, this is a good thing as online news is more immediate compared to the old ways, and is less likely to be false or biased as many state owned or controlled media companies are.

292 words

**Essay #15 (Theme: Media)**

***The media should limit how much bad news they report because it discourages people from doing activities which usually involve very little risk.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, the amount of bad news reported by the media should be limited as it dissuades some people from taking part in low risk activities.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this as it is the job of the media to report honestly what is going on in the world, without any self-censorship. This essay will argue that bad news is what people want to read and watch, and also it is not the job of media to direct or dictate people's behaviour.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It is a sad fact that bad news sells. Whether selling newspapers, or gaining viewers for a TV news show, people buy or tune in to find out what atrocities are going on in the world.

**Explanation**

There is a truism in TV news, if it bleeds, it leads, this means that whether gory horror stories of disasters or murders or bad news in general, this is what viewers want to see.

**Example**

For example, if the news were all good, no one would buy it or watch it. A recent survey by the University of Oxford proved this point, 80% of newspaper buyers said they only bought a paper when it had some salacious or dramatic headline as the top story.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

As well as this, even if some people were discouraged from some activities, perhaps not going on holiday as they fear being murdered or blown up by terrorists, it is not the job of the media to persuade them to do so or not.

**Explanation**

The sole duty of the press, TV, and internet news is to report the facts and events. Not to make anyone change their behaviour.

**Example**

For example, despite lurid news reports it is proven that people have more chance of being struck by lightning than being murdered or being a victim of terrorism.

**Reinforcement**

If people are stupid enough to believe everything they see or read, then that is their problem.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people thinking that less bad news should be reported, I believe that whatever the news is, should be reported, good or bad. People want to see these kind of stories and if they change their activities accordingly, then more fool them.

360 words

**Essay #16 (Theme: Business)**

***Due to the development and rapid expansion of supermarkets in some countries, many small, local businesses are unable to compete. Some people think that the closure of local business will bring about the death of local communities.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, the consequences of supermarket expansion in several turn countries will lead to many small firms going out of business, which will in destroy local communities.

**Thesis Statement**

In my opinion, this is inevitable. This essay will argue that the changes in how people shop, and price competition mean that this trend is unavoidable.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

In the past, the high street, with its local shops was often the hub of community life.

**Explanation**

For many people, the town centre was the only place to go for the butcher, baker and greengrocer. However, in the post-war period and especially the last twenty years, in many countries the supermarket has taken over the role that such local businesses used to fill.

**Example**

Research conducted by the Consumer council of the UK shows that 80% of shoppers now no longer go to the local shops as they prefer supermarkets.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

The main reason for this abandonment of the high street is price and availability of goods.

**Explanation**

As supermarkets are often part of a chain, they can afford to sell at lower prices than the high street shops, and also they can have a more varied range of goods for sale. There is no need to go to separate shops when meat, vegetables, bread, as well as household goods and clothes can all be purchased under one roof.

**Example**

For example, in my old home town the high street has been abandoned by food shops as everyone goes to the local Asda which sells everything.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the spirit of local communities as typified by the high street shops has unfortunately all but disappeared in many towns. This inevitable decline is set to continue in the future, due in part to peoples changing shopping habits, and cheaper prices and better goods on offer in the big supermarkets.

298 words

### Essay #17 (Theme: Computures)

***Nowadays it is possible to use computers and mobile phones for automatic language translation, and there is no need for human translators and interpreters.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

Currently, several kinds of electronic devices are available to translate languages automatically which means that human interpretation is no longer necessary.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my opinion, as language is a human construct it cannot be accurately interpreted by a machine, no matter how intelligent. This essay will argue that, language is not only words but emotion, and also that machines are not capable of conveying the subtleties inherent in a language.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Any linguistic system consists of rules, grammar and syntax, and also vocabulary.

##### **Explanation**

I would agree that a mechanical device or piece of software could be programmed to translate between two languages. However, the act of writing and speaking often uses paralinguistic features, such as emotion, to convey meaning, not merely the words themselves.

##### **Example**

For example, I have used Google translate many times only to find that its version of a text was inaccurate and lacking in human responsiveness. This tool may be good enough to read a menu on holiday, but that is the limit of its usefulness.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Similarly, especially in English, native speakers often make use of idiom and metaphor, slang, and intonation to get a message across.

These subtle features of speech would be very difficult for a real person who is not a native to grasp fully, let alone a piece of software.

**Example**

For example, in the UN, where accurate translation is of vital importance, they only use human experts with years of experience and training in a language and always have a second person at hand to verify its accuracy.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although using devices to translate may be sufficient in some circumstances as when you are on holiday abroad, in my view, real human interaction to get the gist of slang and idiom is a necessity to avoid misunderstanding.

294 words

**Essay #18 (Theme: Online Communication)**

***Modern forms of communication such as email and messaging have reduced the amount of time people spend seeing their friends. This has had a negative effect on their social lives.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Current methods of electronic communication have resulted in a decrease in real time meetings between friends which has had a subsequent negative impact on their social activities.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement. This essay will argue that, e-mail and related methods are no substitute for meeting face to face, and shallow relationships are increasingly replacing true meaningful ones.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

While email and associated means of communication are easy, cheap, and convenient, it is no substitute for physical interaction between people.

**Explanation**

Often, it is used to replace meeting people in person as people mail, text, and face-time each other whereas once they would have to make a journey to meet up and socialize.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by The Guardian newspaper revealed that 80% of UK millennials meet up with their social circle less than once a week; the remainder of the time is spent chatting virtually.

**Reinforcement**

This reduces the time people spend in each other's company and also changes the nature of their relationships.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

As mentioned above, an unintended consequence of modern interactions is that many relationships are superficial, although to many they may seem real enough.

**Explanation**

Chatting to a friend or stranger in cyber-space is not and cannot be the same as sharing a physical closeness and related experiences.

**Example**

For example, referring to the previous Guardian survey, the same millennials recognised the fact that such online interactions were shallow copies of real life; however, for the most part they seemed to accept this as part of how modern life is nowadays.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in today's world many people spend less time socializing in each other's company, preferring to communicate virtually. I believe this is a retrograde step for society as human beings are social creatures and the online world cannot and should not replace this fact. The consequences of this move are that, what relationships people have are becoming increasingly less meaningful than previously.

315 words

**Essay #19 (Theme: Young & Old People)**

***Leaders and directors in an organization are normally older people. Some people think younger leaders would be better.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, having younger people leading organizations would be better than having older personnel in charge as is common in most companies these days.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, this depends on what type of organization you are talking about. This essay will argue that, for financial and other “serious” organizations, experience is of paramount importance, whereas for certain commercial companies such as IT, a more creative, youthful leadership is best.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

For some types of organization, business, or company, having experienced leadership is vital.

**Explanation**

And as experience often comes with age, it should not be surprising to find mature people in charge of decision making.

**Example**

For example, according to the Financial Times, in the financial sector in the UK, where stability and wisdom coming from years of working in the industry are respected, it is rare to find senior staff under 40 years old, more often than not they are over 50.

**Reinforcement**

This is just one illustration of how in business, age and experience are often found together.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, in other sectors, having young people in management and leadership roles is not only normal, it is expected, as young people are often more innovative.

**Explanation**

If we take the IT field as a case in point, it would be hard to find a start-up that did not have a young staff, and even the industry giants have many, if not most, leaders under 30.

**Example**

An obvious example here is Google where, reportedly, the median age of senior staff is 29.

**Reinforcement**

The reason for this could be that a relatively young creative industry requires an equally young creative staff, or that IT naturally attracts a younger demographic.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people advocating for young leaders in various enterprises, I would argue that this only applies to particular organizations. For the field of finance, there is a strong case to be made for older directors as they have years of experience needed to lead such an important sector. However, I would also argue that for other areas, IT in particular, youthful leadership is perhaps more important as creativity often trumps experience in that sector.

350 words

## Essay #20 (Theme: Crime)

***Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later and it is often argued that these are the best people to talk to teenagers about the dangers of committing a crime.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Some people believe that former prisoners who have become model citizens after their release are best placed to warn teenagers away from a life of crime.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, having people who can speak from personal experience as to the horrors of prison are more likely to get through to teenagers than anyone else.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Teenagers, in general, are considered by many to be a difficult group to reach.

**Explanation**

Ask any parent or teacher and they will more than likely confirm this truism. So, if the object is to warn off troubled teens from entering a life of crime, then parent and teachers lecturing them is likely to have little effect, the opposite in fact. Adolescents are more likely to try something if it is forbidden to them.

**Example**

For example, when I was at school, no one listened to the teachers telling us about this is wrong, do not do this or that. They were thought to be old and boring and no one cared what they said.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

This being so, having ex-prisoners come to schools and lecturing them in graphic detail about what life in prison is about is, in my view, much more likely to get through to teenagers.

This approach has been shown to be very effective in America, where I have read about many schools running ex-offender outreach programmes.

**Example**

According to the reports, teens are genuinely shocked at what the ex-cons tell them and those stories seem to have the desired effect as teen crime rates are apparently lower for kids from those schools.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as argued by some, former convicts are best placed to warn off teenagers from a life of crime. I certainly agree with this notion, as teens typically do not listen to authority figures such as parents or teachers, however, they might well listen to people who have had direct experience of the consequences of a life of crime. This being so, I would recommend that all schools have such an outreach programme with ex-cons in the hope that potential teenage criminals will be dissuaded from breaking the law.

348 words

**Essay #21 (Theme: Celebrations)**

***Many people think that public celebrations (like national holidays, festivals, etc.) are a waste of money and the government should spend those funds in a better way.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that state expenditure on festivals and public holidays is wasteful and that there are other ways to best spend this money.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement as public money is limited and other vital services such as health and education are more important.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

While public displays may help promote national pride I believe the cost of these events should not be met by the government.

**Explanation**

The state has a limited amount of income through tax revenues and needs to spend it on more urgent priorities such as health and education. Given the choice of a free healthcare system and free universal schooling, or massively expensive public holidays, most people would choose the former.

**Example**

For example, according to the Guardian newspaper, public celebrations for the Queens jubilee and the millennium dome party cost an estimated 10 billion pounds, this money would have been enough to provide free university education for all undergraduates for at least five years at current trends.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

That being so, if public celebrations are necessary, then they should be paid for public subscription or private/business donations.

**Explanation**

The benefits of such sponsorship for business could be invaluable in terms of promotion of their brand and future sales.

**Example**

For example, several major events such as the Olympic games have some state money but the bulk of it is provided by business such as Coca Cola, Nike, and similar multinational brands as they know this kind of advertising is priceless.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, many people believe that public holidays and festivities should not be paid for by the state as they are wasteful. I agree, as health and education are a better way to spend this money. However, if private sources of funding could be found, then I see no reason why such events could not be a benefit to society.

303 words

**Essay #22 (Theme: Children)**

***Many children these days have an unhealthy lifestyle. Both parents and schools are responsible for solving this problem.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently a lot of children lead unhealthy lives, and according to some, the responsibility for resolving this issue lies with schools and parents.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, it should be the child's parents who need to take action over this. This essay will argue that schools have more important things to educate children about, and that parents need to be more involved in their children's lives.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Schools have to teach reading, writing, mathematics, and a myriad of other lessons to their pupils.

**Explanation**

This demands the full attention of the teachers, and what they do not have time for is to act as watchdogs of their pupils' lifestyles. If the children stay up late, or play computer games, or eat fast-food, it is not the job of schools to regulate this behaviour.

**Example**

For example, in the UK the average teacher, as well as teaching hours, has to plan lessons, prepare materials for the official curriculum, all of which leaves them no time to worry about whether the pupils eat hamburgers or whatever.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

In my view, if children are living unhealthily, the only people who should take action are the parents.

**Explanation**

They are the ones who spend the most time with their offspring and who pay for their computers, internet and food, therefore they are the ones with the most influence.

**Example**

For example, when I was a child my parents would not buy me everything I asked for, nor would they tolerate any idleness or eating junk food, they were quite strict and this was beneficial for me in the long run.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some believing that both schools and parents should police children's lifestyles, I think that only parents should perform this task, as teachers are too busy with other things, and parents are the ones who pay for their child's lifestyle.

300 words

**Essay #23 (Theme: Driving)**

***Some people think that drivers should pay for building and maintaining roads. While others think that the government should for pay the costs of infrastructure.***

***What is your opinion?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, the cost of road building and maintenance should be borne by drivers, while others believe that infrastructure costs should be met by the state.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, the government is responsible for this upkeep. This essay will argue that drivers already pay enough for the privilege of driving, and that capital projects such as roads are the business of government.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

To drive a car these days is an expensive business.

**Explanation**

If we consider fuel cost, insurance, MOT tests, and general maintenance, it can be argued that motorists already pay a significant price for be able to drive a car. In my view, it is therefore unfair to ask them to pay any more, whether in taxes or directly, to finance roads.

**Example**

For example, it is estimated the average cost of running a car in the UK is 168,00 GBP over a lifetime.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Setting aside this enormous cost to the driver there is a strong argument for the state to develop traffic infrastructure.

**Explanation**

The duties of the state include the provision of such things as health, education, and the physical constructions of a society, including transport links. The government takes enough from citizens in direct and indirect taxation, and the people have a right to expect this money to be spent on the needs of the country, which naturally includes a high quality motorway and by-road network.

**Example**

For example, the UK Department of Pensions estimates the average taxpayer pays 20% in income tax plus an additional 5,000 GBP and above in indirect taxation per year.

**Reinforcement**

If you calculate this by the number of total tax payers in the UK, this figure runs into the billions.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, considering the differing views on who should pay for roads and their upkeep, I believe the government should always be held responsible for this expense. Considering the amount drivers already pay for the right to drive, and the high levels of tax the individual citizen contributes to the state coffers, it would be unfair to ask them to pay more.

338 words

**Essay #24 (Theme: School)**

***Schools are spending more time teaching traditional subject such as history. Some people think they should rather spend more time in teaching skills that can help students find a job.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, instead of time spent teaching the usual academic subjects such as history, what schools should be doing instead is teaching their students the skills to help them find a job.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this opinion as education is valuable in itself, and it is not the business of schools to fill the job market.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Knowledge in itself is power, as the oft quoted phrase has it.

**Explanation**

I firmly believe this to be true as without knowledge a person can have no understanding of the modern world, where we came from, and how the world is now.

**Example**

For example, one reason why the UK curriculum has core subjects such as history, geography, maths, biology, and others, is because a well-rounded education shapes a well-rounded citizen.

**Reinforcement**

Schools in the UK are designed to provide their pupils with such lessons as it makes them aware of their history and identity as a nation.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, while I concede that having a job is important, I do not believe it is the business of schools to help fill gaps in the job market.

**Explanation**

Schools are there to ensure their pupils go into the world with a broad understanding of many things, not the narrow confines of employment, and as children how can they know what job they want to go into anyway?

**Example**

For example, when I left school I had no clear idea of which sector I wanted to work in, and it was only after graduating from university that I had some sense of my future direction.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, while I can see some people's concerns over what schools teach and how that may help students find employment, in my view, schools should teach a wide variety of subjects to ensure their pupils are generally well-informed to take their place as citizens not just as numbers in the workforce.

307 words

## Essay #25 (Theme: Space)

***Billions of dollars are spent on Space research every year. Instead, this money could be used to improve living conditions of people on Earth.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, spending money on the exploration of outer space is wasteful given the many problems on earth which need to be solved.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this view and will argue that space research has produced no tangible benefits so far, also that the earth needs to solve its myriad of problems first before reaching out to other worlds.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Outer-space exploration and research has so far produced very little results.

**Explanation**

Sending men to the moon and rockets to the outer planets has not had any significant impact on any major problems the world currently faces.

**Example**

For example, the world expenditure on space exploration for last year was some 4 trillion dollars, yet still the world is embroiled in conflict, and various wars around the globe. Despite the massive expense, we still do not have a stable planet.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

I believe before reaching out to other planets, we need to resolve our earthly problems first.

**Explanation**

If we consider how disease, hunger, and poverty blight the lives of billions of people, how can we justify spending such immense amounts of money with no clear goal.

**Example**

For example, to consider disease, the American Cancer research foundation has estimated that 100 million dollars would be needed to fund its study into a cure for cancer over the next ten-year period.

**Reinforcement**

This research could potentially save millions of lives, yet medical research programmes are significantly underfunded and have to rely on public charity to continue.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, I strongly believe that the space exploration budget should be drastically cut or ended altogether as it has shown no tangible benefits and could be better spent. I would suggest that if such exploration continues it should be funded via public donations, and leave citizens tax money to be spent on more urgent matters.

295 words

**Essay #26 (Theme: Education)**

***It is neither possible nor useful for a country to provide university places for a high proportion of young people.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Some say that the provision of places in higher education for a significant number of students is not only useless but also impossible for any country to achieve.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, it is the duty of government to provide university places for all. This essay will argue, a highly educated population is beneficial for any society, and also if places are not found at home, many students will study abroad and their talents will be lost to the nation.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Taxpayers have a right to expect provisions for higher education as part of the “social contract” between citizens and government.

**Explanation**

Therefore, as many places as required for tertiary education should be made available regardless of cost as it can only be desirable to have a well-educated population for economical and developmental reasons.

**Example**

For example, in Turkey, higher education is free of charge and the state makes places available for all who can pass the entrance exam as the government realises that knowledge is key to development in today's world.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Another reason why places should be provided is that otherwise, students may travel abroad for their studies and not return.

**Explanation**

It is quite common for students to stay and work in the country they have studied in, denying their home countries their valuable talents.

**Example**

For example, many nursing students are forced to leave the UK and go to Bulgaria or Hungary for training as the UK does not have sufficient university places for them, after which they usually stay and work to pay off their student fees.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some believing that it is impossible and pointless for large numbers of students to go to university, in my view, it is a necessary thing for the state to provide the opportunity to do so. As it will be beneficial for the nation, and will prevent a “brain-drain” of young talent.

308 words

**Essay #27 (Theme: Success)**

***It is said that our success in adult life depends on how our parents bring us up as a child.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, to be a successful adult relies to some extent on how we were raised as children.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe this is true, as encouraging and supportive parents have a significant effect upon a child's later life in terms of education and ambition.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

The foundations for success are said to be laid as children.

**Explanation**

That is, if a child has a warm and encouraging family life, then there is no limit to what they may achieve as adults. This is especially true as many parents realize the importance of education in a successful future.

**Example**

For example, many parents arrange extra lessons for their children such as language classes in Mandarin, or ballet, or violin, the idea being that these pursuits will pay off in the long run.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, as well as being raised to a high level of education, parents can instil a sense of ambition and motivation in their children.

**Explanation**

By bringing up a child to aim high and to always reach as far as possible, parents can set a foundation for their offspring to succeed. Of course, there is always the danger that so-called “pushy” parenting may have the opposite effect, however, as long as the child is nurtured properly and not over stretched by too many extra activities this should not be a problem.

**Example**

For example, my mother always supported me by buying me books and instilling a love of reading which I am certain made me determined to go to and succeed at university.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, I agree with the opinion that adult success comes from our upbringing. Having parents who are prepared to encourage your dreams and support you practically by arranging additional tuition, is in my view, bound to have a significant effect on our adult lives.

294 words

**Essay #28 (Theme: Technology)**

***It is inevitable that as technology develops so traditional cultures must be lost. Technology and tradition are incompatible—you cannot have both together.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, technological advances inevitably lead to an erosion of traditional culture as they are inherently incompatible.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement. This essay will argue that some aspects of traditional living such as farming, and traditional crafts will almost certainly be lost to technology.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

One of the oldest traditions in the world is farming, the working of the land by hand and sweat of brow.

**Explanation**

However, as the world population grows, the inefficiency of old methods of crop production and harvesting must give way to modernisation. As a consequence of this drive for increased food production, there will be no room for small farms practising this ancient lifestyle.

**Example**

For example, a recent UK government report showed that 90% of UK farms are now owned by multinationals and practice intensive farming methods with machinery replacing humans.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

This modernisation also extends to traditional handicrafts associated with farming, such as the smithy and leather maker.

**Explanation**

Once every English village had a blacksmith and harness maker, for shoeing horses and making the reins to ride them. Now, due to mass machine production, no one buys from the traditional craftsmen, horse riders and owners go to specialist shops to buy machine made items.

**Example**

For example, it is estimated by the Guardian newspaper that over 80% of blacksmiths have gone out of business in England over the last 30 years.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, it seems to be unavoidable that machines will replace humans in many areas. In the UK, a country with long roots in the land and traditions thereof, it is a sad fact that both farmers and craftsmen along with their skills are being lost to technology.

274 words

**Essay #29 (Theme: Parenting)**

***Fatherhood ought to be emphasised as much as motherhood. The idea that women are solely responsible for deciding whether or not to have babies leads on to the idea that they are also responsible for bringing the children up.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, as it is a woman's decision to have children, they should be responsible for the child's upbringing.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this idea and will argue that children benefit from a stable environment with both parents present, and that these days it is increasingly common for men to show responsibility for their children.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, although the decision to have a child may be the mothers, a child will certainly benefit by having a fathers' involvement.

**Explanation**

Research into this subject shows that a child with both parents in their lives will be more successful in school, and in later life.

**Example**

For example, a study by the University of Massachusetts in 2015 showed that over 85% of high school graduates in New York came from two parent families, and that over 60% of teen criminals came from single parent homes.

**Reinforcement**

Although very general, this research seems to suggest that having both parents in family life is certainly beneficial.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, although in the past the norm was for women to bring up their children while the father went to work, this is by now an outdated notion.

**Explanation**

Currently, more men are taking time off work to help care for their children, some going as far as becoming “house-husbands”.

**Example**

For example, the US Department of Employment reported that in 2016 the number of men requesting paternity leave had risen by over 50% over the last ten years.

**Reinforcement**

This would indicate that more men are actively embracing parenthood these days, as opposed to previous generations.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although women make the decision to have children, they do not have to be solely responsible for them. I believe that both parents are needed in family life for the welfare of the child, and that in fact more and more men are choosing to make the responsibility a joint effort.

305 words

## Essay # 30 (Theme: Work)

***Establishing good relationships in the workplace is not important, as the primary goal of every person is to focus on work.***

***To what extent do you agree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It is commonly argued that the main objective and purpose of every employee is to focus on their work and to perform the best they can, as being on good terms with colleagues is not necessary.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, these two goals are not mutually exclusive. I think that being productive at work is more important than trying to befriend all colleagues, although I would concede it would be advantageous to have at least a few friends in the workplace.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Maintaining good relations with all co-workers is often hard and even counter-productive.

**Explanation**

That is to say, it can be very emotionally demanding to forge friendships in the office as it can be difficult to accommodate every colleague's needs and interests.

**Example**

For example, it is often wiser to eschew the niceties of interaction in favour of productivity: if all people were trying to build good relationships with everyone in their workplace, this would mean considerably less time to actually work

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

That being said, there are many compelling reasons to get closer to our colleagues.

**Explanation**

For one thing, it is very beneficial to establish cordial relationships with those who surround you in the workplace.

**Example**

For example, many full-time employees spend more of their waking hours with co-workers than they do with their families and if you are single, your work may be the only place to interact with human beings at all.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my opinion, it is important to find and maintain a healthy balance between being productive at work and forming social bonds. Making friends is beneficial, especially considering the amount of time most people spend at work, however, this must not be offset at the cost of our personal productivity.

291 words

### Essay #31 (Theme: Technology)

***We are becoming more and more dependent on machines to function in the modern world. Some people think that is a very negative development.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that we are depending increasingly upon machines to function in today's world. Some believe that this is a negative development.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I agree with the statement and will argue that, relying on computer controlled devices is putting lives at risk, and that by doing so we are losing touch with our natural mental abilities.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Firstly, many machines and devices are controlled by computer chips these days.

##### **Explanation**

Virtually every machine from a car to a washing machine, to a hospital ventilator has a microchip which controls its function. However, as we have seen in recent events, it is possible for hackers to take control of such devices and threaten to harm people unless a ransom is paid.

##### **Example**

For example, in the UK this year the NHS (National Health Service) computers were hacked by criminals who demanded a large ransom for not turning off hospital ventilators and killing sick patients.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, by relying too much on machines for even the simplest of functions we are in danger of intellectual retardation.

**Explanation**

That is to say, by not using our brains for the simplest of tasks, such as calculating, reading a map, using Google instead of our memory, we are turning back the evolutionary process and becoming stupider as a species.

**Example**

For example, recent research by the University of London showed that 85% of drivers admitted to using their sat nav device for driving around in their home town to places they have been to before.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, this dependence on mechanical devices for our every task is certainly a retrograde step in human history. I believe that this over-reliance on computers is putting lives at risk and is in serious danger of making us mentally irrelevant as a species.

288 words

**Essay #32 (Theme: University)**

***Some universities now offer their courses on the internet so that people can study online.***

***Is this a positive or negative development?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Several universities now have their courses available online as an alternative option to campus based classroom tuition.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe this is a positive step as online tuition should be cheaper and therefore available to more people, and also that remote learning will have a similar broadening of access.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, one of the main advantages of online learning is that of cost.

**Explanation**

Many online courses are considerably cheaper than attending a bricks and mortar institution as they are virtual and do not require a building, staff, and all the associated expenses a university has.

**Example**

For example, as a teacher I know that many would be teachers take online TEFL courses as they are a fraction of the cost of attending a university or language school training course.

**Reinforcement**

This switching from offline to online education provision with a concomitant reduction in cost means that more people will be able access the education they need than previously.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, being able to access a lesson online means it can be available anywhere and at any time, regardless of the hour as the student does not have to be physically present in the classroom.

**Explanation**

This means that many people living in remote parts of the world, especially the less developed areas, can have quality educational content at their fingertips.

**Example**

For example, the University of Bath conducted research in 2016 which showed that over 80% of online students were from Africa, and South East Asia.

**Reinforcement**

The implications of this study shows that distance is not a barrier to education for the people in developing nations and indeed anywhere.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the increase in universities offering online courses is I believe a significant beneficial development as cheaper tuition costs and the ability to access university courses remotely is of obvious benefit for less well-off people, and students in far flung places of the world.

307 words

**Essay #33 (Theme: Parenting)**

***It should be necessary for parents to attend a parenting course to learn how to bring their children up.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, attendance at a parenting course should be compulsory for all parents to teach them how to raise their children.

**Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this idea, and will argue that there is no “one” way to bring up a child, and also that for many people their own parents will be there to offer advice and help.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It would seem intuitively correct that new parents should take some kind of training as they begin to raise a child.

**Explanation**

The idea in principle would seem sound, however this raises the question of how and what parents should be taught as if there were only one “correct” way to bring up children. Many parents these days reject traditional approaches to parenting, regarding them as old fashioned and either home-school their kids or raise them “gender-neutral” as a more modern, progressive method to suit today's world.

**Example**

For example, according to the Guardian newspaper in 2017, the number of parents in the UK who home-school their offspring has risen by 40% over the last decade.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, the proponents of this idea seem to ignore the obvious and best qualified advisors for new parents, their own parents, the grandparents of the child/children in question.

**Explanation**

As parents themselves they have the knowledge and experience of childcare, and the bonus of having an emotional and familial bond to the child. This practical and emotional knowledge is not something that any classroom course could teach.

**Example**

For example, not surprisingly, the same survey by the Guardian showed that more than 90% of new mothers would not consider asking anyone other than their own mother for parenting advice.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite the idea of a parenting class having some merit initially, I would argue that for most people such a course would be rejected. As they have their own ideas for child raising, and would no doubt seek advice from their parents before any stranger in a classroom.

319 words

**Essay #34 (Theme: Parenting)**

***The responsibility of bringing up children should be shared equally between mother and father.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been said that both parents should have an equal share in the raising of their children.

**Thesis Statement**

I totally agree with this view, and will argue that it is unreasonable in this day and age to expect the mother to raise the children alone, and also that with the rise in house-husbandry and paternal leave it is easier than before for men to take their share of this responsibility.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, the idea that only women should raise children is out of date.

**Explanation**

That is to say, although in the past this was the norm, in today's modern world with more women in the workplace and taking on more roles previously occupied by men, it is unreasonable to expect them to remain in the home child-raising.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the UK Department of Employment showed that over 50% of new mothers intended to return to work after having a baby.

**Reinforcement**

This research suggests that, like it or not, the attitude of women themselves is changing about traditional familial roles.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, in many countries it is becoming easier for men to take on their share of childcare.

**Explanation**

That is, many governments have added paternal leave to the legal requirements of a company, and this has made it more socially acceptable for men to take time from the workplace to stay at home with the children.

**Example**

For example, in the UK recently, a new law was passed making it obligatory for a company with over fifty employees to offer up to 3 months' paternity leave to its employees.

**Reinforcement**

As a consequence of this new legal and societal attitude, more and more men are supporting their wives and sharing equally in the joys of parenthood.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the duties of raising children need and ought to be shared jointly between both parents. The increasing number of women in the workplace and the changing in societal norms, along with the change in men's working practices means that both sexes now have an equal chance to share child raising responsibility.

342 words

### Essay #35 (Theme: Immigration)

***One of the major problems facing the world today is the growing number of refugees. The developed nations in the world should tackle this problem by taking in more refugees.***

***To what extent do you agree with this opinion?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that the world's wealthier nations should help to solve the refugee crisis by accepting more refugees.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this statement, this essay will argue that a better way to tackle the growing number of refugees is to stabilise the countries that are at war, and secondly, to promote development and economic growth in such parts of the world.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

The act of accepting refugees into more developed or "Western" nations, in itself will not solve the refugee crisis.

##### **Explanation**

It should be apparent that the most logical way to solve this is to take away the reasons for people seeking refuge in the first place. That is to say, stop all hostilities and attempt to stabilise such conflicts as may be taking place currently.

##### **Example**

For example, if the war in Syria which has displaced millions of people could be halted, and the country rebuilt, then many refugees in Europe would no doubt want to return home.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, as many refugees flee not only war but poverty in their home countries, one way to stop this flow of people would be to develop the economies of the countries of origin.

**Explanation**

If people had hope and prospects of a secure and prosperous future, then they would have no reason to travel a hazardous journey to risk a new life in a new country.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the UN showed that 85% of people crossing the Mediterranean illegally last year were not fleeing war, but poverty.

**Reinforcement**

As a consequence, if the “West” were serious about solving this problem, then investment and spending on foreign trade with the sender countries would be an effective solution to this issue.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although it has been argued that the “West” should take more refugees, I believe that resolving conflicts, and developing economic growth in the sender countries is a much better answer to this crisis.

315 words

**Essay #36 (Theme: Children)**

***Children today are too dependent on computers and electronic entertainment. It would be better for them to be outside playing sports and taking part in more traditional pastimes than spending all day indoors.***

***Do you agree or disagree with this statement?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It can be argued that instead of spending all day indoors playing computer games, children these days would benefit more from playing outside.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree with this statement and will argue that children need to develop social skills by playing with other children outdoors, and also that playing outdoors reduces the risk of obesity.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, it is vital to develop social skills in childhood.

That is to say, as adult people need the skills of communication and empathy if they are to find a job and a partner and these skills are more easily learnt as a child.

**Explanation**

For example, a recent study by Moscow State University showed that 85% of long term singletons were isolated and introverted as children.

**Example**

This research would suggest that interaction with other children, especially in outdoor games, is an essential part of the journey to adulthood.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, nowadays a lot of adults suffer from obesity which is often caused by bad childhood habits.

**Explanation**

Many children who spend a little or no time outdoors in play have a tendency to be overweight and they often carry this poor lifestyle into adulthood.

**Example**

For example, the Russian Ministry of health showed that based on a ten year monitoring of public health in Moscow, 75% of overweight young men spent less than 1 hour of play or exercise outdoors a week.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, it can be said that it is good for children to play outdoors as it is beneficial for the reduction of obesity, and for the development of vital social skills to help them communicate better in their adult life. I totally agree with this idea and would recommend that all children have more time for play and socialising with other children.

286 words

### Essay #37 (Theme: Education)

***With the pressure on today's young people to succeed academically, some people believe that non-academic subjects such as P.E and cookery should be removed from the syllabus so that children can focus solely on academic subjects.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that non-academic lessons should be taken out from the school curriculum so that school children can focus purely on academic subjects.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I disagree with this view and will argue that other subjects such as PE and cookery help to make children more rounded individuals, and secondly that as children are too young to know their future direction it makes sense to keep all their options open.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Firstly, we need to ask ourselves what is the purpose of education.

##### **Explanation**

That is to say, is it just to prepare children to fill various roles in society and to turn them into consumers and obedient wage slaves. If as some believe the purpose of education is to make children more rounded and open individuals, then it would make sense to teach them skills other than academic ones such as PE and cookery so they can function better in later life.

##### **Example**

For example, the University of London conducted research in 2016 which showed that children who were taught a wide range of subjects at school described themselves as more content and able to “handle” life’s problems than those whose focus was purely academic.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, as children with their whole lives ahead of them, does it make sense to define their future studies and life path at such a young age?

**Explanation**

I believe that children should be allowed to be children and to be taught a variety of subjects so that they may decide later where their interests lie.

**Example**

For example, research by the Department of Employment in the UK in 2015 showed that 50% of employees expressed some regret over the subjects they took at school and their subsequent career path.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although a focus on pure academia may seem a good idea, I believe that exposure to a range of subjects allows children to be happier and have more life skills, and also may prevent them from taking an unsatisfying career path in the future.

327 words

**Essay #38 (Theme: Social Status)**

***A person's worth nowadays seems to be judged according to social status and material possessions. Old-fashioned values, such as honour, kindness and trust, no longer seem important.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It could be argued that the values of a previous era such as honour and trust are not important in today's world, and that what is valuable now are the things we own and our status in society.

**Thesis Statement**

I agree completely with this statement, and will show that the rise in consumerism, and celebrity worship are the two main factors behind this shift in values.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, as we are living in an increasingly materialistic and consumer driven society how people are judged depends on what they own.

**Explanation**

That is to say, as living standards rise more people can afford to buy expensive goods such as clothes and mobile phones, and these possessions are taken as a symbol of status.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the US Education Department in 2016 showed that 80% of teenagers judged their classmates on what brand of mobile phone they owned.

**Reinforcement**

This research suggests that for many people material belongings are a considerable measure of social importance.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Additionally, as the internet increasingly takes over modern life, especially social media, more people are obsessed with appearance.

**Explanation**

For many people this means that so-called celebrities are taken as role models based on their looks and lavish life styles, and this is seemed as something desirable in many people's eyes. The proof of this is in the fact that for a considerable number of young people, such sites as Instagram and Facebook take over their lives and posting selfies becomes an important part of their self-worth.

**Example**

A recent survey by Google showed that 85% of millennials posted a selfie on the internet every day and the number of likes they received are seen as a sign of social value and status.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, it would seem that society's values have indeed shifted towards materialism and new standards of "status". In my view, this is a sad fact in today's world, and until consumerism and the temptations of social media are curbed this shift is likely to continue.

330 words

## Advantages/Disadvantages Essay Structure (1)

### Introduction

#### **1. Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

#### **2. Thesis Statement**

Answer the question(s) and briefly say what you will be talking about in the body paragraphs. For example, if the question is '**What are the advantages and disadvantages?**', simply say the main advantage and the main disadvantage.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **3. Topic Sentence: the main advantage**

Mention the main benefit that you outlined in the introduction.

#### **4. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

#### **5. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

#### **6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Body Paragraph 2

### **7. Topic Sentence: the main disadvantage**

Mention the main disadvantage that you outlined in the introduction

### **8. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **9. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

### **10. Reinforcement**

Reinforce or reiterate the example or main idea.

## Conclusion

### **11-12. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

### Essay #39 (Theme: University)

***In the past when students did a university degree they tended to study in their own country. Nowadays, they have more opportunity to study abroad.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

Previously when students went to university it was in their home country, however in today's world there are more opportunities to take degree courses abroad.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay will argue the main advantage of this is learning about a new language and culture, while the main disadvantage is the potential for culture shock.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

One of the benefits of studying in another country is the exposure the student will get to a different language and culture.

Also, the student will meet new people with different views and lifestyles which may be completely alien to what they are used to.

##### **Explanation**

For example, a recent survey by the University of Ghent showed that 85% of its non-Belgian students said they considered themselves to be more "open-minded" as a result of their studies and the time spent away from home.

##### **Example**

This research suggests that travel and living in an unfamiliar environment does change people's attitudes and values in a positive way regarding foreign cultures and lifestyles.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, the potential downside to this is the possibility of culture shock.

**Explanation**

That is when living in a new and “foreign” environment causes negative feelings such as anxiety and depression to appear.

**Example**

For example, the National Union of Students in the UK reported in 2016 that over 60% of international students in UK universities had suffered from some form of depression during their studies.

**Reinforcement**

This is apparently not uncommon among students studying abroad and can sometimes have serious mental consequences for a minority of people.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as study opportunities around the world have expanded in recent years there are both positive and negative sides to this phenomenon. The main advantage is the chance to learn and experience different cultures and as a result become more open-minded, while one of the possible disadvantages is the loneliness and depression caused by negative culture shock.

305 words

### Essay #40 (Theme: Education)

***Some suggest that young people should take a job for a few years between school and university.***

***Discuss what the advantages and disadvantages might be for people who do this.***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

It has been suggested that it might be beneficial for young people to work for a year or so between leaving school and beginning higher education.

**Thesis Statement**

The benefits of doing so could be gaining valuable life experience which may help their studies, whereas the downside might be a lack of incentive to continue studying.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Not going straight from school to university and working, usually while travelling, is very common and popular among Western teenagers.

**Explanation**

The benefits are two fold, making some money obviously, but the second, gaining experience in the area of their studies or the field of their future career can prove lucrative in the long term.

**Example**

For example, many employers hold such “real world” experience in high esteem when hiring recent graduates, they show a preference for people with life skills and academic achievement, rather than only academic qualifications.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, there could well be a negative development while taking time away from studies.

**Explanation**

That is, a young person may become so engrossed in their fledgeling career and swayed by financial rewards that they lose the will and desire for further study.

**Example**

For example, the University of Bath reported recently that an estimated 30% of school leavers who intended to go to university failed to do so after beginning working life. This may be because of family life or career building, but the figures show that for some people higher study is abandoned.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the suggestion that youngsters should delay tertiary education in order to work may well be a positive one. They can learn many things in the work environment that may be of importance in their future studies or post-university career. Even so, it needs to be recognised that this experience may disincentivize some from going back to study after this gap which may be a disappointment to them in the future.

306 words

**Essay #41 (Theme: Health)**

***Universal free healthcare should be abolished as a person should be held responsible for their own health and wellbeing.***

***What are the advantages and the disadvantages of free healthcare?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that the individual citizen should be responsible for their own health and not the state and that therefore, a free system of healthcare available to all is not required and should be abolished.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay will show that the main advantage of free healthcare is that everyone whatever their income has access to a basic level of care, whereas a major disadvantage is that such a system inevitably finds itself being abused.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

A free health system applies equally to rich and poor alike.

**Explanation**

Therefore, people on low incomes can have medical attention when it is needed without worrying about whether they can afford it or not.

**Example**

For example, before the NHS (National Health System) in the UK was created after WW2, it is estimated that over 100,000 people died annually due to being unable to pay for treatments for some serious illnesses.

**Reinforcement**

As a result of the creation of this free at point of use system, no one need suffer unnecessarily because of a lack of money.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, as such a system depends upon free and open access, there is the possibility of it being abused.

**Explanation**

There have been many stories in recent years of “health tourists”, foreigners having expensive treatment for which they are not entitled.

**Example**

For example, the NHS itself estimated in 2015 that over 50 million pounds per annum was going on these foreign visitors and not being repaid.

**Reinforcement**

The consequence of this is that funds which should be spent on UK patients is being diverted elsewhere and not to where it was intended.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although free healthcare regardless of income is undoubtedly a significant advantage to poor citizens, the potential for misuse of the system and its valuable resources by undeserving foreigners is possibly its biggest disadvantage.

296 words

### Essay #42 (Theme: Education)

*There has been a dramatic growth in the number of people studying at universities in the last few decades. While some people see this as a positive trend which raises the general level of education within the community, others fear that it is lowering the quality of education.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of the increase in student numbers at university?*

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

The number of university students has dramatically increased in recent decades; some argue having more educated people is beneficial to the whole community while others are afraid this trend will lower educational quality.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay will argue the main advantage of this increase is a more knowledgeable populace that will develop the economy, while the main disadvantage is the lowering of the value of a university degree.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Firstly, having more people graduate with university degrees is of obvious benefit to any community.

##### **Explanation**

It could be argued that a more educated citizenry will naturally lead to higher levels of innovation and productivity with consequent increases in the economy.

##### **Example**

For example, if we consider the situation in America, a recent survey by Harvard Business School indicated that over 80% of young people involved in start-ups and creating their own online businesses had at least a BA degree.

##### **Reinforcement**

The implication from this survey is that, in most cases, a high level of education seems to be the norm for most entrepreneurs.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, a possible drawback to high graduate numbers could be the lessening of the value of a degree.

**Explanation**

If employers take education and a degree qualification as a measure of a person's suitability for employment, then if everyone has a degree, it would be difficult for a candidate to stand out.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey (2016) by the Employers Federation (UK) revealed that 80% of employers were now looking for other qualities in job candidates rather than a degree.

**Reinforcement**

If this is so, then high numbers of graduates will have no reason to have taken their degree in the first place.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as tertiary student numbers are growing, the benefits of education to the economy of this increase need to be considered in the light of a possible downgrading in status of such education's value in the job market.

309 words

**Essay #43 (Theme: City)**

***In the past, most people lived in small villages where everyone knew everyone else. Nowadays, most people live in large cities where they only know a few people in their area.***

***What do you think were the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small community?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently, it is common for the majority of people to live in cities where they might not know very many people, this is in marked contrast to the past where village life meant no one was a stranger.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, the main benefits of living in a village were a feeling of safety and of belonging to a tight knit community. However, to my mind, the major drawbacks were a lack of opportunities for study and employment.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Living in a small area, such as a village, means that everyone knew everyone and their business.

**Explanation**

People felt safe enough to let their children play in the street and the other adults would watch out for them as well as for their own kids. People were often proud of their roots, and there was a genuine sense of belonging, possibly because also in the past many people worked in agriculture and felt a deep connection to the land.

**Example**

For example, I remember my grandparents telling me how it was for them as children in their home village and how connected they felt to their neighbours.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite this, village life could be, and probably still is, very limited in terms of education and employment.

**Explanation**

For aspiring youth, the only chance of a good education and a career outside of farming was to leave and head to the city.

**Example**

To give a personal example again, when I left school in my small town I could not find any suitable job and had to move to London, a situation very common in the past and still to this day for small town inhabitants.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the advantages of village life were, and to some extent still are, that of security and belonging, when no one is a stranger, everyone is a friend. Despite these obvious benefits, it is an unfortunate fact that opportunities for young people especially were and are few and far between in terms of jobs and higher education.

326 words

### Essay #44 (Theme: Driving)

***Some people believe that drivers should be forced to retake their test every five years.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of this measure?***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

It has been argued that car drivers should be compelled to take their driving test regularly every five years.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe the main advantage of this would be to increase public safety, while the disadvantage would be the cost of retraining and retaking the exam.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Firstly, it can be said that many accidents on the road are preventable, and are often due to poor driving skills as many people pass the basic driving test and have no further training after this, which can lead to carelessness and the forming of bad driving habits.

**Explanation**

In this case, the main advantage of retraining and retaking the test might go some way to making drivers take more care upon the roads.

**Example**

For example, a survey of car drivers in 2015 by the UK Department of Transport said that 70% of drivers admitted to coming close to an accident in the past year, mainly due to speeding or inattention.

**Reinforcement**

If this research gives a true picture, then compulsory retaking of the test could be a major factor in reducing accidents and fatalities upon the roads.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, although this measure may have many benefits, the main disadvantage to this measure could be the considerable expense of training and the test fee, which many drivers would be resentful of paying.

**Explanation**

That is to say, if drivers are forced to retake the exam, they may try to cheat or to get around the requirements in some way to avoid paying the fees.

**Example**

For example, some drivers may feel they are being unfairly treated owing to the bad driving of others, so they may bribe the examiner or buy a false licence certificate which would undermine the whole point of the scheme which is to improve road safety standards.

**Reinforcement**

In which case, the whole project would be pointless and no reduction in accidents would occur.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although public safety would surely be the winner if drivers were retested, the drawback to this scheme would be that many people might not take it seriously and would cheat or bribe their way to a test certificate. In which event it would be doomed to failure.

357 words

**Essay #45 (Theme: Transport)**

***Public transport should be made free of charge.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a move?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Some people believe that all transportation used by the general public should be without charge.

**Thesis Statement**

It can be argued that the advantage to this move would be congestion free city centres, while the disadvantage might be an increase in general taxation to pay for it.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, the main benefit to such a policy would be car free streets.

**Explanation**

That is to say, if people could get around their city for free, then they might well use the bus and metro instead of going by private car.

**Example**

For example, a survey of commuters in 2015 conducted by the UK Department of Transport said that if all public means of transportation were free to use, 90% would be tempted to leave their cars at home.

**Reinforcement**

If this policy were to be implemented, then city centres might be car and congestion free.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, although this policy would undoubtedly be of benefit to citizens, a major drawback would be the increase in personal taxation required to pay for this scheme.

**Explanation**

That is to say, local government needs money to pay drivers of the bus, tram and metro, and the vehicles themselves need to be bought and maintained, which is not cheap.

**Example**

Research carried out by the University of York suggests that local taxes in the UK would have to go up by 25% in order to pay for this scheme to be put into practice.

**Reinforcement**

It can well be argued that local tax payers would not be particularly happy to fund such a policy, beneficial though it may be.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite the fact that free public transport would be a significant improvement to many towns and city centres, the cost of implementation may be too prohibitive for this to become reality.

288 words

**Essay #46 (Theme: Economy)**

***Many people believe that economic development is necessary for a country's success.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of such approach?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It is thought by some that development of the economy is essential for building a successful nation.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay will suggest that a larger economy is vital for paying for social services, while only focusing on financial matters will reduce the impact of arts and science on society.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It would be difficult to argue that every country needs a strong economic foundation in order to pay for its needs and duties.

**Explanation**

The benefits of this are obvious, defence, education, health, not to mention public infrastructure such as roads and rail need significant financing to function.

**Example**

For example, the biggest economic powerhouse in Europe which is Germany, is considered to have some of the best welfare programmes in the world for its citizens.

**Reinforcement**

These generous benefits were impossible only a few decades ago when the German economy was lessened as a result of re-unification.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite this, if the only goal of a country is its financial strength, then there is a possible drawback of social inequality between the classes.

**Explanation**

That is, in any capitalist free market, there are always more winners than losers, more poor people compared to rich people. If a country devotes itself completely to economic development, then this gap between rich and poor will become increasingly wider with all the problems and social unrest that will bring.

**Example**

For example, according to CNN, in America, the paragon of western capitalism, it is estimated that the inequality gap has tripled since the 1980s.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the economy is a necessary driving force behind any nations success which has its advantages such as being able to afford substantial social welfare programmes. However, this may well come with a major disadvantage such as a widening of financial inequity between rich and poor members of society.

293 words

## Advantages/Disadvantages Essay Structure (2)

### Introduction

#### **1. Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

#### **2. Thesis Statement**

Answer the question(s) and briefly say what you will be talking about in the body paragraphs. For example, as to the question '**Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working abroad in a foreign country and give your opinion.**' You are simply going to write about one main advantage, one main disadvantage and your own opinion, hence three body paragraphs.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **3. Topic Sentence**

Mention the main advantage.

#### **4. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

#### **5. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

#### **6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Body Paragraph 2

### **7. Topic Sentence**

Mention the main disadvantage.

### **8. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **9. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

### **10. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Body Paragraph 3

### **11. Topic Sentence**

Give your own opinion.

### **12. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea ..... but this body paragraph can be a bit shorter than the previous ones.

### **13. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader....

## Conclusion

### **14-15. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

### Essay # 47 (Theme: Immigration)

*These days, more and more people are going to other countries of periods of the time, either to find job or to study. There are clearly many benefits to doing this, but people who live abroad can also face some difficulties.*

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working abroad in a foreign country and give your opinion.*

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

It has been argued that living abroad either for work or study has many benefits as well as drawbacks.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, living abroad is something that everyone should experience in their lifetime. This essay will argue that the main advantage is the chance to experience a new culture while the main disadvantage is the possibility of “culture shock”.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Firstly, living in another country from your own can be highly beneficial in terms of personal development.

**Explanation**

That is to say, exposure to a new language and way of life can indeed as the saying goes “broaden your horizons”.

**Example**

For example, to consider study, over 90% of Erasmus students interviewed by their home universities in 2016 expressed that living and studying abroad expanded their minds and made them “see life through another lens”.

**Reinforcement**

This research is indicative of the general feeling that moving and living outside of your comfort zone does open a person’s mind to new possibilities.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, there is a downside for some people who may be overwhelmed by the strangeness of their new environment and experience “culture shock”.

**Explanation**

This phenomenon often takes the form of loneliness and anxiety caused by the “newness” and perceived “strangeness” of the people, language, way of life.

**Example**

For example, a survey by the British Council in 2016 of native teachers in China showed that more than 70% of those interviewed felt “out of place” and “unable to function” in a foreign environment.

**Reinforcement**

The implication here is that although living in a new country is exciting, there is a definite chance that unless adequately prepared, many people may struggle.

## Body Paragraph 3

**Topic Sentence & Explanation**

In my opinion, despite the possibility of cultural incompatibility, the benefits of seeing your worldview from another perspective and living in a new culture is an incomparable experience.

**Example**

For example, when I moved to Turkey some years ago as a teacher I learned so much about myself that I would not trade that experience for anything.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although for many the chance to live abroad is exciting and full of opportunities there is always the possibility that some may be overwhelmed by the experience and suffer some psychological side effects.

354 words

## Advantages/Disadvantages Essay Structure (3)

### Introduction

#### **1. Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

#### **2. Thesis Statement**

Answer the question(s) and briefly say what you will be talking about in the body paragraphs. For example, as to the question 'Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?' answer if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. If you say so, then you should mention two advantages and one disadvantage (two advantages > 1 disadvantage); if not, then 2 disadvantages > 1 advantage.

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **3. Topic Sentence 1**

Mention the first advantage / disadvantage.

#### **4. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

#### **5. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

#### **6. Topic Sentence 2**

Mention the second advantage / disadvantage.

#### **7. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea .....

#### **8. Example**

Give an example to convince.....

## Body Paragraph 2

### **9. Topic Sentence**

Mention the advantage / disadvantage. If you mentioned two advantages in the 'body paragraph 1', then in this paragraph you are going to talk about the main disadvantage, and vice versa. One important thing is that you should not list several advantages or disadvantages; the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **10. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **11. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

### **12. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Conclusion

### **13-14. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

**Essay #48 (Theme: Health)**

***One of the consequences of improved medical care is that people are living longer and life expectancy is increasing.***

***Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

As advances in medical care continue, life expectancy is increasing and more people are living longer than ever before.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe the disadvantages of this progress clearly outweigh the advantages. As longer lives means an ever expanding population who will need feeding and clothing, and more elderly who will require expensive medical care, in contrast to having more time to spend with their families.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

While greater life span sounds like a good idea in practice it will only exacerbate current world problems.

**Explanation**

The world can barely feed, clothe and house the 7 billion or so people or so on the planet currently.

**Example**

For example, the WHO (World Health Organisation) estimates that if world population rises by more than 10% of the current rate per annum, then severe food and water shortages will occur in the world's poorest regions.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, just because life spans are longer this does not mean that extended life is a happy one.

**Explanation**

Many elderly people suffer from serious age related health complaints such as arthritis, diabetes and lung disease.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the UN (United Nations) shows that people aged 80 and above account for up to 70% of many developed nations expenditure on medical care.

## Body Paragraph 3

**Topic Sentence & Explanation**

In contrast, living longer may give people more time to do the things they want to do after retirement, such as spending time with their families. However, as mentioned above this is only if the elderly have sufficient resources and the good health to enjoy this extended life span.

**Example**

For example, as WHO figures show, in the UK (and other Western countries) the average state pension is often below the rate of inflation making it difficult for old people to have a comfortable existence in their retirement.

**Reinforcement**

When this is taken into account with failing health it is difficult to argue that living longer has any real benefits.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although the average life span is becoming longer than ever before, I believe that the pressure of an increasing struggle for resources that an expanding population can bring, coupled with a serious decline in the quality of life for the elderly, clearly outweighs any possible benefit longer life can bring.

362 words

**Essay #49 (Theme: Immigration)**

*Today, more and more students are deciding to move to a different country for higher studies.*

*Do you think the benefits of this outweigh the problems?*

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently an increasing number of students are moving to foreign countries to continue their higher education.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe the advantages of such a move definitely outweigh the disadvantages. This essay will discuss the value of international experience and of a foreign degree, versus the possibility of cultural shock and loneliness.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Taking a degree in a foreign university is becoming increasingly popular these days as higher living standards and lower travel costs mean many students can now afford this option.

**Explanation**

The benefits of this are two-fold, firstly, living abroad gives the student valuable international and cultural experience. Having to learn a new language and adapt to a new way of living makes a person grow and this experience is often highly sought after by employers when the student returns home.

**Example**

For example, a recent report by the Guardian newspaper reported that 85 % of HR managers looked for such experience when hiring new employees at management level.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Also, for many students, a foreign degree is more prestigious than one from their home country.

**Explanation**

In many countries a degree from a UK or American university is highly regarded, whether the graduate student wishes to stay in academia or move into the job market as mentioned previously.

**Example**

For example, according to The Guardian (in the same report) the number of Chinese students who have taken an MA degree in the UK has increased by 40% over the last year and this trend is forecast to continue.

## Body Paragraph 3

**Topic Sentence**

However, despite this value, there is a significant disadvantage for some people which is experiencing culture shock and loneliness in a new environment.

**Explanation**

Having to make new friends, speak a strange tongue, and having to get used to different ways of living can take its toll on some people.

**Example**

For example, a 2016 survey by the University of Bath showed that a small but significant percentage of foreign students of around 5%, have trouble with their studies and either seek counseling or quit their courses every year.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as the number of international students seems set to continue in the future, I believe the value of such an experience in terms of personal growth and future prospects, firmly outweigh the disadvantages of potential emotional anxiety.

369 words

### Essay #50 (Theme: Apartment)

*Some people prefer to live in a house, while others feel that there are more advantages to living in an apartment.*

*Are there more advantages than disadvantages of living in a house compared with living in an apartment?*

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

It has been argued that despite many people living in houses, the advantages of living in an apartment are greater.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay disagrees with this view and will show that the advantages of having more space and more peace and quiet outweigh the disadvantages of cheaper living costs.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

For many people the main benefit of living a house is that of space.

**Explanation**

That is to say, a typical house in my country may have two floors and several bedrooms, and possibly some outside area such as a garden.

**Example**

For example, my parents' house in England has three bedrooms, a dining room, and a lounge, as well as a garden front and rear.

**Reinforcement**

This stands in contrast to most apartments which may only consist of a studio or one or two rooms.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

The second reason for many people is that of peace and quiet.

**Explanation**

Depending on the kind of house, you might have no immediate neighbours, or only on one side, possibly both if a terrace. This is in contrast with an apartment where you may have neighbours on all sides and both above and below you.

**Example**

For example, if you have noisy neighbours in the upstairs or downstairs apartment to you, then that can make your life a living hell. Whereas, in a house you might only have potential noise from one side, if at all.

## Body Paragraph 3

**Topic Sentence**

However, for many people the main advantage of life in an apartment is its cheaper price whether buying or renting.

**Explanation**

This could well be important if the owner/occupier is single as many apartment dwellers are in big cities.

**Example**

For example, if we consider the housing market in the UK in 2016, to buy a typical semi-detached house might go for half a million GBP depending on the area, whereas a one-bedroom apartment might cost half that amount.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite apartments being the housing choice for many people, I believe that the factors of having more room to live, and the difference in cost mean that houses have a clear advantage for living space.

381 words.

### Essay #51 (Theme: Children)

***Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at primary school rather than secondary school.***

***Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, the benefits to children of bilingualism are more evident if they start at primary school.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay believes that the positive aspects of early language learning do outweigh the negatives. This essay will argue that, early language exposure is more likely to lead to mastery, and there are added improvements to brain function also, whereas the only disadvantage may be confusion between native and foreign languages.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence 1**

Research over the years has shown that the optimal age for a child to successfully learn a new language is between 3 to 8.

##### **Explanation**

As well as the language, young learners also acquire a “native” accent if they start young which will stay with them into adulthood.

##### **Example**

For example, in the Scandinavian countries, it is common for many adults to speak almost flawless English as a result of their school system teaching bilingualism from 5 years old.

##### **Topic Sentence 2**

Also, it has been proven that having another language develops higher brain functions.

##### **Example**

Research by the University of Bath shows that 80% of dual language children perform better in cognitive tests.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, others argue that teaching a second language while a child is still mastering a first may cause confusion and brain “overload”.

**Explanation**

The claim is that at too young an age the child’s mental pathways are not fully formed and this may cause cognitive dissonance.

**Example**

From personal experience as a teacher, I know this is not true. I teach a class of Slovak kids who can speak both English and German and they are just fine.

**Reinforcement**

This anecdotal evidence is true, but there are many academic journal articles which report the same phenomenon.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the proven positive aspects of easier acquisition and improved mental abilities clearly outweigh the claimed disadvantage of mother tongue uptake for young primary age schoolchildren.

297 words

**Essay #52 (Theme: Apartment)**

*Today, many people live in large apartment blocks.*

*Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?*

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently, apartments in large tower blocks are home to many people.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay believes the benefits of cheaper rent prices, and living in a safe, controlled environment outweigh the drawbacks of a lack of privacy and living space.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence 1**

One of the major advantages of living in a tower block is that of price.

**Explanation**

So as many occupants can be placed into the same vertical space as a couple of houses might take up, rental prices should be cheaper.

**Example**

For example, in my home town of London, I could not afford to rent my own house as it would cost me four times as much as renting an apartment in a large building.

**Topic Sentence 2**

The second advantage is that of safety, in many blocks there is 24/7 security guards, CCTV cameras, and people constantly coming and going.

**Explanation**

This obviously acts as a deterrent to burglars who prefer less guarded and secluded building to target for their crimes.

**Example**

For example, where I live now, there are guards on the building entrance and only residents and checked visitors are allowed access which make me feel much more secure.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, there are drawbacks to this, the most important being apartments in these buildings are typically not large and you have people living alongside and above and below you.

**Explanation**

If you are single, the lack of space might not be a problem, but if you have inconsiderate neighbours this can be a major issue.

**Example**

For example, fortunately where I live now is relatively peaceful, but in my old apartment I had terrible trouble with the neighbours who were students who would party all night, every night which was a terrible nuisance.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the number of people living in apartment blocks is considerable, which way of living brings both positives and negatives. The main benefits are that of cheaper living costs, and of the security that comes with living in some guarded communities. However, this is countered by small living areas and possibly inconsiderate neighbours. On balance, this essay believes that in this case, the advantages do outweigh the disadvantages.

344 words

### Essay #53 (Theme: Population)

*At the present time, the population of some countries includes a relatively large number of young adults, compared with the number of older people.*

*Do the advantages of this situation outweigh the disadvantages?*

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

Currently, in several countries the number of young people outnumber that of older people.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, the benefits of this situation outweigh the drawbacks. This essay will discuss the social desirability of a youthful population, versus the possible downside of less employment possibilities.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

The more young people, the more innovation and new ideas and less stifling tradition in a society.

**Explanation**

As many cultures embrace conservative beliefs which often restrict progress in societal rights, especially women's rights, having a youthful virile country is one way to enact social change.

**Example**

For example, in Iraq, the increasing number of young citizens demanding more rights and freedom is an encouraging sign for democracy in that country.

**Reinforcement**

Also, as more young people are technologically savvy, those countries with a higher proportion of youth are more likely to be innovators.

**Example**

For example, Bulgaria has more people under the age of 30 than over it, and this has led to a youth driven economy focused on IT and new technologies.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, one negative aspect of a high number of young people is the economy needs a lot of jobs to keep them employed.

**Explanation**

If this is not possible, then many citizens will seek better employment prospects abroad, resulting in a “brain-drain” of the brightest and best.

**Example**

For example, the Spanish economy has been so bad in recent years that an estimated 20% of people under 30 have left the country to work abroad.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my opinion the higher the proportion of youth in a country the better, for both societal and technological progress. However, this needs to be measured against the possibility of mass flight if the economy cannot meet employment demands.

278 words

**Essay #54 (Theme: Employment)**

***Some people decide to start their own business instead of working for a company or organization.***

***Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantage?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

For some, working for themselves and starting their own business is a better option than working for someone else.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay believes that the benefits of being self-employed, such as freedom of hours and being your own boss, do outweigh the disadvantages, for example, of having an unstable income.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Being in charge of your own business and making decisions for yourself is an important reason why some people choose to be self-employed.

**Explanation**

This also includes choosing your hours of work to suit your lifestyle.

**Example**

For example, if you want to go to the gym in the morning, then work until the evening, or get your work done in the morning, then sit on a beach in the afternoon, you are free to do so.

**Reinforcement**

Another excellent plus point is that you no longer have to do what someone else tells you to do.

**Example**

For example, a survey by the Economist magazine reported that 80% of entrepreneurs started their own company in dissatisfaction with oppressive office hierarchies, in other words they were sick of being told what to do.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, despite these advantages there is always one significant downside to having your own business, a lack of stable income.

**Explanation**

This is especially true at the start, when your company is brand new, it may take some time to build up a client list, take orders and turn a profit.

**Example**

For example, the number one reason, according to Forbes magazine, for new start-ups to fail is an inconsistent income stream.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, working for yourself is undoubtedly exciting and has several plus points in its favour, such as freedom to choose your hours of work, and making decisions for yourself. That being said, there is a possible downside which is not being profitable initially and not having a regular, reliable cash flow.

300rds

## Discussion Essay Structure

### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

**Thesis Statement**

Answer the question(s) and briefly say what you will be talking about in the body paragraphs. After you paraphrased two views/sides, give your own opinion.

### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Mention the first idea/view.

**Explanation**

Discuss the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea. Give a reason why you dis/agree with viewpoint.

**Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

**6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Mention the second viewpoint.

**Explanation**

Discuss the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea. Give a reason why you dis/agree with viewpoint.

**Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

**6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Conclusion

**13-14. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

### Essay #55 (Theme: Employment)

***Employers sometimes ask people applying for jobs for personal information, such as their hobbies or interests, or whether they are married or single. Some people say this information may be relevant and useful, others disagree.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that employers asking potential employees to disclose personal information is a useful practice, while others would disagree.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I believe this questioning is irrelevant, and this essay will discuss how some personal details may help to choose the right candidate, while conversely other more private information is no one's business.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Certain employers believe that knowledge of a candidate's hobbies or leisure interests may help them choose an employee.

##### **Explanation**

This may be true in some areas of work, where matching the role of the company to the job seeker is important. I agree that if a candidate's hobbies involved drinking or taking drugs, then they might not be suitable to work at a bank or government office where discretion and sound, sober behaviour is vital.

##### **Example**

For example, it is common hiring practice for many US companies to scrutinize potential employees' social media pages for evidence of insobriety and riotous behaviour.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, other information such as marital status or sexuality is not only irrelevant but intrusive.

**Explanation**

Whether married or single, or whatever a person's domestic arrangements might be is not the employers business. I strongly disapprove of such prying into people's private lives which have no bearing on whether a person is capable of doing a particular job or not.

**Example**

For example, in the UK since 2011 it has been illegal to ask for marital status on job applications in all areas of business.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite employers sometimes asking for this kind of information, whether it be to find the most appropriate candidate or is unnecessarily intrusive, my personal opinion is that all that matters when choosing an employee is their education and experience, nothing more.

281 words

**Essay #56 (Theme: Parenting)**

***Some parents think that childcare centres provide the best services for children of preschool age. Other working parents think that family members such as grandparents will be better carers for their kids.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It is believed by some working parents that the best way to care for preschool children is to take them to childcare centres, while others argue that the child's relatives, especially grandparents, would be better carers.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay believes that professional carers are the best option for taking care of young children.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence & Explanation**

The merits of attending childcare centres are twofold: firstly, if children attend such a centre, they will be under the supervision of well trained professionals who have experience in taking care of such young children. Also, at the centre the youngsters will be in the company of other children and can make friends and learn and play in a social atmosphere.

**Example**

For example, all carers and care assistants in the UK have to pass rigorous screening and training programmes in subjects such as first-aid, and teaching and child psychology.

**Reinforcement**

This training is designed to create a safe and protective environment for the children.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, some parents think that relatives rather than strangers are the best people to trust their children with.

**Explanation**

They say that the bond of a grandchild and grandparent is a natural and loving one that no stranger can replicate.

**Example**

For example, research by the University of Manchester in 2015 suggests that a child who is cared for by family members is 80% less likely to have anxiety related issues at primary school in later years.

**Reinforcement**

This would suggest that a safe and familiar family environment is of prime importance in a child's psychology.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although both views have merit, it could be argued that the twin advantages of being watched over by trained professionals and the obvious social benefits of learning and playing with other children are of more importance than the psychological comfort grandparents can provide.

304 words

**Essay #57 (Theme: Help)**

***More developing countries are given aid from international organisation to help them in their development plans. Some people argue that financial aid is important but other suggest that practical aids and advices are more important.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that giving aid to developing countries is the best way to help them develop, whereas others would argue that although financial assistance is important, practical aid and advice is more important.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, international organisations donating money is the best way to ensure a countries development goals are met. This essay will consider the lack of finance which many less-developed countries have, and the arrogance of suggesting that foreign advice is more valuable than that the home country can provide.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, as many developing countries are by definition less well-off than their “Western” counterparts, it is often a lack of available finance or credit that stops many nations building their way out of poverty.

**Explanation**

That is to say, many infrastructure projects that would help develop a nation such as schools and railways, all need more money than a developing country might have available. I would agree that international money could be a big help in this regard.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey in 2015 by the UN suggested that a shortage of funds was the reason behind the abandonment of over 50% of “development” projects in South East Asia.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, it has also been argued that aid and advice from outside sources are more important.

**Explanation**

This seems to suggest that less developed countries are lacking in talent and/or practical knowledge in reaching development goals. To my mind this view is incorrect and stereotypical and which seems to believe in the superiority of “Western” knowledge over the “inferiority” of the East/Global South.

**Example**

That this is a fallacy is shown by a recent study by the UN which pointed out the high number of graduates (over 80%) in UK universities Masters courses in Engineering who were from non “Western” countries.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although some would argue that foreign advice is more important than foreign financial aid, I believe that the opposite is true. The “West” is not the only source of knowledge in practical matters and it is often a shortage of money rather than skills that causes less well-off nations to fall behind in terms of development.

353 words

**Essay #58 (Theme: Art)**

***Some people think that art is an essential subject for children at school while others think it is a waste of time.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that the teaching of art to school children is a waste of time and effort, whereas others would argue that art is a vital lesson to be taught at school.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay will discuss the lack of employment opportunities for artists, and also how art stimulates a child's creativity.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, although art may well be useful for a child's creativity, later in life it may be difficult to find an art related job.

**Explanation**

If a child wants to continue with art as a profession, it has to be noted that only a minority of artists are a success.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the University of Hanoi in 2016 showed that 90% of arts graduates from Vietnamese universities were unemployed for some years after graduation.

**Reinforcement**

This fact may well explain many people's attitude to the teaching of art in schools.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite the fact that art may not be immediately useful in finding a job, it is still a vital subject for children.

**Explanation**

By learning to paint and draw, a child's mind will be stimulated and lead to a more creative outlook on life.

**Example**

According to the Hanoi Child Psychology Institute children who have early exposure to art display higher IQ s and are more likely to go into higher education.

**Reinforcement**

This study reinforces the importance of art, not only as a source of employment, but also as tool for developing a child's mental abilities.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although the teaching of art in school has been considered both vital, and pointless, depending on your view, I believe that despite art not being potentially useful for employment purposes, the effect it has on a child's psychology is of inestimable value. For this reason, I believe that art should remain on the school curricula.

296 words

**Essay #59 (Theme: Crime)**

***Some people believe that capital punishment should never be used. Others however, argue that it should be allowed for the most serious crimes.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that the sentence of death should not be used in any circumstances, whereas, others would argue that it is right to use it for very serious offences.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay believes that capital punishment is necessary and will discuss the fact that some crimes are too heinous for any other sentence, whereas, conversely, the state does not have the right to take a human life.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, for the most serious crimes a serious deterrent is needed, such as the death sentence.

**Explanation**

That is to say, for some crimes such as murder, or child sex offences, public outrage demand an ultimate punishment, so the offender will not commit those crimes again.

**Example**

For example, in China's Hubei province recently a women's baby stealing gang were caught and executed to reassure the public that such crimes would not be permitted to go unpunished.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

On the other hand, for many people with strict moral and religious views, only god has the right to decide who lives or dies, therefore, the state should not practice capital punishment.

**Explanation**

In this view, sentencing people to death is morally wrong and imprisonment is a more just and suitable punishment. They also point to several cases of wrongful execution by that state to support this assertion.

**Example**

For example, it is a fact that in the UK there were several cases of innocent men being wrongfully executed and later found to be innocent of the crime.

**Reinforcement**

If they had been jailed instead, they would have been alive to be set free.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people thinking capital punishment to be wrong and not the business of man, rather of god, this essay believes that it is justified by public outrage for very serious crimes such as murder and child sex offences.

295 words

### Essay #60 (Theme: Health)

***Some people say that the best way to improve public health is by increasing the number of sports facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that increasing the number of leisure and sporting facilities is the most effective way of developing and improving the health of the general public, while others would argue that this would have little impact on health and that other steps are needed.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay will argue that simply building new sports centres is not a viable answer, and that the key to developing a healthy citizenry is education.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Firstly, while going to gyms and sports/leisure centres is undoubtedly a good thing for a healthy life it can be suggested that motivation is the key factor in getting people to exercise.

##### **Explanation**

If a person does not have the desire or will to get out of their arm chair and go and exercise, then having a gym built at the end of their street will have little or no effect on their well-being.

##### **Example**

A recent study by the University of Bath showed that 80% of people who buy a gym membership only went regularly for the first two months then either went sporadically or not at all after that time.

##### **Reinforcement**

This study would seem to back up the idea that motivation not availability of sports centres is the main factor in exercising regularly.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence & Explanation**

What might be more useful is a government funded education campaign to show people the dangers of not exercising, being sedentary and eating unhealthily.

**Example**

For example, when the UK government ran an anti-smoking campaign in 2014 across all media, doctors around the country reported an increase of 50% of patients inquiring about how to stop smoking.

This clearly demonstrates that, as in all things, education is often the most effective way to change people's behaviour.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although having a ready availability of places to exercise may seem intuitively to be a good way to get people healthy, in reality if the motivation to do so is not there, then it will have little effect. A far better option would be to inform citizens of the harm that modern life is doing to their bodies while educating them to change their lifestyles for a positive outcome.

352 words

### Essay #61 (Theme: University)

***Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe that there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It has been argued that the purpose of tertiary education is to assist graduates to obtain a better job, while others would argue that university education has a higher function in terms of usefulness to society and the individual alike.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I believe that the benefits of attending university go beyond mere job seeking and will consider how useful is a degree in finding employment, and the advantage of having a highly critical citizenry.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Firstly, one of the major selling points of a university degree is its advantage in the job market.

##### **Explanation**

As a degree is a sign of a good education as well as the transferable skills that a graduate learns while taking a degree, it is no surprise that employers value graduates. I would agree that as a general measure of intelligence a degree has some currency.

##### **Example**

For example, a recent survey by the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) showed that an increasing number of jobs, over 70% of office jobs, are now asking for a degree as a minimum qualification.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, even though a degree may be important for a job, studying at university teaches many skills of use to wider society.

**Explanation**

It teaches critical thinking, the ability to analyse and synthesise information when writing an essay for example. I would suggest that citizens who enter society with the ability to analyse conflicting sources of information are best placed to make suitable decisions for themselves, when voting for political parties say.

**Example**

For example, a study by the University of Edinburgh showed that as many of 80% of new graduates considered themselves more likely to question what they read and see in the news than non-graduates.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite the obvious benefit of a degree in the job market, I believe that the skills that may be learnt at university go beyond merely employment but offer the prospect of a well informed and critical citizenry that can think for themselves and make better choices for society.

326 words

**Essay #62 (Theme: Health)**

***Some people think that governments should take measures to improve the healthy lifestyle of individuals. Others think it must be managed by individuals.***

***Discuss both sides and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, maintaining a healthy way of life is the responsibility of the individual, whereas, others believe it is the duty of the state to improve this.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe that health and fitness is a personal matter for everyone. This essay will discuss, government duties, and personal responsibility for health.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Some believe the state has a duty to its citizens, as the state is responsible for education and defence, so it should also be for national health.

**Explanation**

As a government has a large amount of tax money at its disposal it could build sports centres, develop education programmes about diet and exercise, and actively encourage people to live in a healthier way.

**Example**

While this seems reasonable, I would disagree with this view as our tax money should be spent on things the individual can do nothing about, such as education and defence, whereas health should be everyone's personal responsibility.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Although the government has certain duties to its citizens, I do not think that making everyone fit and healthy is a good use of money.

**Explanation**

Often the reasons for a person being unfit are their own fault, such as laziness or being unconcerned about the kind of food they eat. In a free market economy, personal choice and preferences are paramount, if this is so for every other choice, then why not for health.

**Example**

To give a personal example, I know I should exercise more and not drink or smoke, however, any actions I may or may not take are mine alone to decide, not the job of government.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although some would argue that maintaining the nation's health is the governments job, I disagree as in a free society, fitness should be a personal responsibility.

289 words

### Essay #63 (Theme: Travel)

***Some people think an international car-free day is an effective way to reduce air pollution. Others think that there are more effective ways to do this.***

***Discuss both sides and give your opinion***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, having a worldwide day without cars could effectively decrease air pollution, however, others believe other methods may be better to achieve this goal.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, taking cars off the roads for only one day will not seriously tackle this problem. This essay will discuss, the benefits of a one off zero car day, and a consistent strategy for maintaining air quality by a dramatic reduction in car numbers all year round.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

As part of the ongoing issue of polluted air around the world, there have been calls for a “car-free day” to be held worldwide.

##### **Explanation**

The idea is that as cars contribute greatly to poor air quality in cities, having a day without them would be a good way to raise awareness of this problem.

##### **Example**

For example, the WHO research shows that cars emit 20 cubic tonnes of noxious gasses per year, if this is calculated around the globe, then taking such vehicles from the roads for a day will have significant effect.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, in my view, this measure is only a publicity stunt and will have little long term effect on air quality.

**Explanation**

To be more effective and to seriously decrease toxic gas from the atmosphere, we need to have less petrol engine emissions all the time, not just for a day.

**Example**

For example, the same WHO research suggests that the estimated car usage would have to be reduced by 50% in total, not just a day, to have any major impact on CO2 and MO2 levels.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, while a no-car day seems intuitively a good idea, in reality it is likely to be nothing more than a quick fix media stunt to make car drivers feel better about their vehicles. In my view, other measures such as a long term total reduction in car numbers will be more effective than a one-day PR stunt.

313 words

### Essay #64 (Theme: Children)

***Some believe that allowing children to make their own choices on every day matters (such as food, clothes, and entertainment) is likely to result in a society of individuals who only think about their own wishes. Other people believe that it is important for children to make decisions about matters that affect them.***

***Discuss both these views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, if children are allowed to make their own decisions on day to day matters, this will result in a selfish, individualistic society. However, others think that allowing children to choose what to do in things that affect them is very important.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, parents should let their offspring decide these relatively mundane matters as they are of little consequence. This essay will discuss, how free choice may result in selfishness, and the character building that deciding for yourself can bring.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

It is often said that we live in a society of individualists, consumed by self-interest and narcissism, and that such behaviour is learnt as a child.

##### **Explanation**

When children are allowed to make their own choice, regardless of others wishes or against best advice, this sends a signal that only their opinions matter and this carries on into their actions in adult life.

##### **Example**

For example, recent research by the University of Antwerp showed that 80% of mental patients considered to be socio-paths were often spoilt and over-indulged as children.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

On the other hand, I believe that learning how to make decisions at a young age has the opposite effect, that of building character and developing autonomy.

**Explanation**

If people are to function for themselves in the adult world, they need to be able to evaluate options and learn to make right choices by themselves without parental interference.

**Example**

For example, as The Economist recently showed in a survey, more than 75% of self-made millionaires and entrepreneurs said that their parents encouraged self-reliance and taking responsibility for actions as a child.

**Reinforcement**

As this study shows, this valuable life lesson stood these successful people in good stead in later life.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although there are differing views on the wisdom of letting children make decisions for themselves, in my opinion this practice should be encouraged as it will be of great benefit to youngsters in adult life.

317 words

### Essay #65 (Theme: Children)

***Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults.***

***Discuss both views and give your own opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, children should be motivated to be more competitive amongst themselves, while others feel that cooperation is a more important value to instil in youngsters.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, both of these character traits are equally important for children to become the best adults they can be.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

It is important that young people are pushed to be the best they can possibly be, in whatever pursuit they take part in.

##### **Explanation**

This drive to win boosts their work ethic and teaches them that hard work and discipline are the keys to success which will stand them in good stead when they enter the competitive world of work.

##### **Example**

For example, it is often said that behind every successful business person lies a background of achievement in childhood. The successful UK businessman, Lord Sugar, has often spoken of his childhood background where his parents pushed him and encouraged him in everything he did at school, academically and in sport.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

That being said, if we continue with the work analogy, while being competitive is important, there are many situations where adults have to compromise and co-operate with each other.

**Explanation**

In many working situations we have to function as part of a team which strengthens our empathy, selflessness and makes us more responsible toward others.

**Example**

For example, if a person were hyper-competitive at work at the expense of those around us, it is likely that we would alienate our colleagues and be very unpopular at any job we were involved in.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my view, children should be taught to try their best to achieve their goals, but this teaching should also be balanced with the importance of working with others. Both are equally important and will result in a more balanced young adult ready for any situation that life, and work may throw at them.

303 words

**Essay #66 (Theme: Crime)**

***Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, the most effective method of reducing crime is to imprison criminals for longer periods. However, others would argue that more effective alternatives are available.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe that the best way to reduce crime is to tackle the underlying causes of why people become criminals. This essay will discuss, how long jail time acts as a deterrent, and why education and social disadvantage matter in crime prevention.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Many believe that the simplest and most effective method to tackle acts of criminality is to lock the offender up for an extended period.

**Explanation**

If you are in prison, you are not free to commit more crimes. Also, once potential offenders understand that the justice system has a fixed tariff for particular offences, this will deter people.

**Example**

For example, when America introduced it's "three strikes and you're out" policy (three crimes and you are sentenced to life) in the 1990s, serious crime rates did drop by a significant percentage.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite the obvious appeal of this approach, in my view, increasing sentences is treating the symptoms instead of the causes of crime.

**Explanation**

A better way to solve this problem is to address the root causes behind offending, which are usually poverty and a lack of education.

**Example**

For example, Harvard University produced a report that showed 80% of long term inmates in the criminal justice system came from poor backgrounds and/or had low levels of formal education.

Reordering society to make education available to all and reducing wage inequality would seem a better long term answer to this problem.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, extending prison sentences seems intuitively correct if the aim is to decrease criminality, however I would argue that a more effective long term strategy would be societal reordering regarding poverty reduction and education provision.

292 words

**Essay #67 (Theme: Driving)**

***Most countries allow 18year olds to start driving a car. Some say it is good to allow it at this age, while others think that the age to start driving should be at least 25.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In many countries people are allowed to drive at 18, some argue this is a suitable age to do so, others believe it should instead be at 25.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, 18 is a permissible age for this. This essay will discuss, how 18 years is already an age for many other legal activities, also the problem of judging a driver's maturity.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

In several countries 18 is the legal age for many more serious life events than only being able to drive.

**Explanation**

If you are judged mature enough to join the army, fight and possibly die for your country, and also marry, and start a family, which are surely more serious events than driving, then why should not a person be able to drive a car. I agree that as long as a person is physically and mentally competent, they should be allowed to be in charge of a motor vehicle.

**Example**

For example, a survey by the UN showed that 80% of the approximately 195 countries in the world have 18 as the legal standard age for driving, marriage, and military service.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, others would argue that 18 is too young and that 25 is a more appropriate age.

**Explanation**

It is believed that teenagers are too immature to handle such a potentially lethal device as a car and think that people in their 20s are more emotionally stable. I believe that over generalizing a person's maturity based purely on age is very problematic.

**Example**

To give a personal example, I know several men in their 40s who I would not trust with a bicycle due to their immaturity, whereas I also know some young men who at 18 have started a family and have good jobs to care for their wives and children.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some conflicting opinions on the appropriate driving age, I believe that, provided the person is sound mentally and physically, 18 is a reasonable time to start to drive, which view is shared by a majority of the nations of the world.

335 words

### Essay #68 (Theme: Economy)

***In many countries in the world, some people earn extremely high salaries. Some people think that this good for a country. Others think that the government should not allow salaries above a certain level.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

In several countries, some people are extremely well paid. According to some, this is beneficial for the country, others would argue there should be governmental restrictions on salary levels.

##### **Thesis Statement**

I believe some cap on earnings would be beneficial. This essay will discuss, the amount of tax high earners pay into the economy, and the social inequality that uneven salaries cause.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

High earners usually pay high taxes, which find their way back into the economy by allowing the government to spend on essential services.

##### **Explanation**

With this in mind, the seeming unfairness of this should be disregarded as so long as they are taxed proportionately as the rest of society.

##### **Example**

To give an extreme example, Bill Gates earns billions of dollars every year yet he subsequently pays a sizeable portion in tax on this income which the government can spend on public services such as education, which benefits everyone.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, I would argue that such disproportionate salaries may have the effect of increasing inequality in society and will bring the “politics of envy” into the public arena more forcefully.

**Explanation**

If the average worker sees what they perceive as blatant unfairness between their typical average wage and such super high earners, this may lead to protests and stimulate class warfare.

**Example**

For example, recently in Venezuela there have been riots on the street in protest at the lowering of average wages and lessened taxes on the rich.

**Reinforcement**

If such a wages cap were in place to restrict earnings beyond a certain amount, this might go some way to mitigate these high public feelings.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although some people earn a substantial salary, this may be offset in most cases by the equally high taxes they pay. In my view, however, some government curb on excessive earnings is necessary for public fairness and to avoid social unrest.

302 words

### Essay #69 (Theme: Transport)

***In a number of countries, some people think it is necessary to spend large sums of money on constructing new railway lines for very fast trains between cities. Others believe the money should be spent on improving existing public transportation.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

In some parts of the world it is believed that spending substantial amounts of money is required for building new lines for high speed intercity trains. However, others think that such expenditure should instead be aimed at making improvements to current forms of public transport.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, making existing transport systems better is more appropriate. This essay will discuss, making cross-country travel easier, and how making peoples everyday journeys might be a better use of money.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Having high speed rail links between cities is becoming popular these days to reduce traffic congestion and many countries are adopting them.

##### **Explanation**

These lines are expensive, but the benefits in terms of reduced travel time and convenience for business travellers is significant.

##### **Example**

For example, in the UK, the proposed H20 link between Birmingham and London will connect the country's two largest cities with a travel time of around an hour.

##### **Reinforcement**

This will boost business as trade goods and people can be moved swiftly between the cities, instead of taking four times the time if transported by road.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, while this may be a benefit to some, in my view, the majority of people want their daily journeys to work, school, and the shops, to be made quickly and conveniently also.

**Explanation**

The high speed trains will only help a small percentage of travellers, whereas most public transport users rely on it every single day.

**Example**

For example, a survey by the Department of Environment in the UK reported that for over 80% of the country, the fast train link would be of no use to them whatsoever.

**Reinforcement**

It seems unfair then to spend a fortune on something that most people will get no benefit from, the money could be best spent on improving the quality of existing services.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, some believe that spending money on fast trains is necessary, I disagree with this as a majority of the public will see no benefit from this expenditure. I believe that making everyday public transport better is a more acceptable option.

337 words

**Essay #70 (Theme: Environment)**

***Human activity has had a negative impact on plants and animals around the world. Some people think that this cannot be changed, while others believe actions can be taken to bring about a change.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, the devastating effect that humans have had on wildlife and nature cannot be rectified, whereas others believe that some measures can be taken to change this.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe that the situation is beyond redemption. This essay will discuss, how conservation may preserve some natural habitats, and the irreversible trend of population growth.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Many forms of wildlife, both plant and animal, are threatened by the encroachment of human activities on their natural habitat.

**Explanation**

As the population grows, more land is consumed for building housing and growing food for humans, land which supports a wide array of bio-diversity. This trend, although it cannot be reversed, may be mitigated by setting aside wildlife conservation areas where nature can be left untouched to grow and thrive.

**Example**

For example, in Latin America, several large parts of the Amazon have been declared off limits to humans in a bid to offset the harm humankind has caused.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, in my view, this is too little too late, as many creatures and plant-life have already become extinct and more varieties are still under threat.

**Explanation**

Given the fact that the earth's population will continue to rise, it seems unlikely that human need for land and resources will diminish any time soon. In this case, it appears that nature will come bottom of the list of global priorities.

**Example**

For example, the UN has calculated that a city the size of Beijing would need to be built every six months to accommodate the expected numbers of new humans born every year.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite the possibility of some conservation areas being able to halt human impact on nature, in my view, this will be a short term measure and will fail given the continuing surge in human population.

290 words

**Essay #71 (Theme: Success)**

***Some people think that intelligence is innate while others think that we can improve our intelligence through learning.***

***Discuss both sides and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, to be intelligent is something which can be acquired and learned, however, others believe it is a natural inborn characteristic.

**Thesis Statement**

In my opinion, intelligence is an inherent trait. This essay will discuss, how cleverness is something we have from birth, whereas, knowledge not intelligence is something that we can learn.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

From birth, our genetic makeup determines how and who we will be.

**Explanation**

Scientists have discovered that apart from physical traits, mental and psychological characteristics are pre-determined also.

**Example**

For example, the well-known measure of mental ability, the IQ test, can be carried out on children as well as adults to measure a person's intelligence.

**Reinforcement**

In my view, this being so, if young children can have a high IQ, then this cleverness must be innate as it could not be learned in so short a time.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, others would argue that intelligence is something that can be learned and hence taught.

**Explanation**

The idea is that, much like any subject, critical thinking, and mental ability can somehow be acquired in a learning environment. To my mind, this view is flawed, by conflating knowledge, of a subject, with intelligence.

**Example**

For example, a study by the University of York showed that students who crammed for an exam who took an IQ test before and after, showed no variance in scores.

**Reinforcement**

This research suggests that the mind can be “programmed” to accept facts and data, but whether this has anything to do with how intelligent a person is, is another matter entirely.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people believing that a person’s intelligence can be improved by learning, my own view is that a person’s mental acuties are natural and inherent, and cannot be increased by any academic methods. I would agree that people can learn and memorise facts, but that is not the same as being intelligent.

305 words

### Essay #72 (Theme: Education)

***Some people think that students in single-sex schools perform better academically. Others, however, believe that mixed schools provide children with better social skills for adult life.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

It is often said that children should go to single sex schools, while others believe that males and females would benefit most from mixed sex education.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay will argue that despite there being some social benefits to boys and girls attending the same school, the academic advantages of educating them separately are more significant.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

Many feel that mixing both sexes at school helps to develop social skills and makes people less awkward around the opposite sex later in their adult life.

##### **Explanation**

This is especially true for men, who may find it difficult to approach and talk to women socially, or even professionally, if they do not get accustomed to such contact at an early age, such as in the classroom.

##### **Example**

For example, the Sunday Times recently reported that men who did not have regular social contact with girls when they were growing up are 68% more likely to suffer from anxiety when in the company of females.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite this, it is difficult to argue with the fact that single-sex schools consistently score highly in examination league tables.

**Explanation**

In most parts of the United Kingdom, the best, usually fee-paying schools, are single sex and this is often cited as the main reason they attain higher grades because students can focus exclusively on their studies.

**Example**

To give a personal example, I went to a mixed comprehensive high school and found that I had to deal with many more distractions of the female kind than friends who attended the local boys-only college.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, integrating the sexes may help to offset social awkwardness in adult life and help pupils feel more at ease in the company of the opposite sex but a school's main function is education and those institutions that are single sex have better academic results than those who allow both.

300 words

**Essay #73 (Theme: Museum)**

***Some people think that museums should be enjoyable places to entertain people, while others believe that the purpose of museums is to educate.***

***Discuss both views and give your own opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, museums exist purely for entertainment purposes, however, others believe that education is their true function.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, the purpose of a museum is both to educate and inspire the visitor. This essay will discuss, how interactive exhibits can enchant people, and how an awareness of history can provide inspiration to the citizenry.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

As museums compete with other attractions for visitors and tourists these days, some think that the focus of an exhibition should be to entertain.

**Explanation**

I would concede that for some kind of museums if you want people to buy tickets and spend money, then you have to give them something enjoyable as an experience. With this in mind, many museums have interactive exhibits, such as video, games and robots to thrill the museum goer and provide value for money.

**Example**

For example, the National Children's museum in the UK has all manner of interactive amusements for the kids, and it does very well financially.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, others would argue that such institutions should have a different function, to remind the visitor of great historical events and help to educate the citizens.

**Explanation**

I believe this view is equally valid, as to see real artefacts and buildings can reveal truth better than reading a book or watching a TV programme.

**Example**

For example, when visiting the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, the tourist is overwhelmed by such a sense of evil and despair that the lesson of history will never be forgotten in the visitor's mind.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, I would agree that in these times museums need to offer added value for money when competing with rival attractions and interactive and innovative exhibitions can do this. However, I would also add that this depends very much on the kind of museum in question. For something such as the National Children's museum, this would be appropriate, but for other more serious places to commemorate significant historical events, such as the case of Auschwitz, this approach would be counterproductive.

328 words

### Essay #74 (Theme: Information)

***Some people believe that it is good to share as much information as possible in scientific research, business and the academic world. Others believe that some information is too important or valuable to be shared freely.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, the sharing of information in business, academia, and science is beneficial and positive, whereas others believe that certain kinds of information should be not be shared due to its value and importance.

##### **Thesis Statement**

In my view, the dissemination of some types of knowledge is a positive step for society. This essay will discuss, how medical research can be advanced by shared knowledge, and why some business details should be kept secret.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

The widespread dissemination of scientific knowledge is a goal that all society should welcome.

##### **Explanation**

I believe the benefits of sharing medical research needs to be encouraged as a failure to do so may cost lives.

##### **Example**

For example, one reason why scientists attend conferences is to present new research and findings into common problems, such as Cancer, and other diseases.

##### **Reinforcement**

By sharing, scientists can come up with cures much faster together than working apart.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, not all data ought to be shared as it may prove too costly to do so, such as business details, in trade and share prices.

**Explanation**

For this reason, I would agree that certain types of information should not be widespread.

**Example**

For example, if a speculator had advance warning of stock prices they could manipulate the market and cause the company to go bankrupt, costing people their jobs, and possibly their savings also.

**Reinforcement**

The danger then is that having such detailed economic information freely available may be used by some people to profit at the expense of others.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, whether the sharing of information is a positive or negative step is debatable, in my opinion some knowledge should be shared freely, such as for scientific studies. That being said, I would agree also that other more sensitive data, in the financial area, need not be so widespread for fear of causing economic instability.

301 words

**Essay #75 (Theme: Economy)**

***Many people believe that they should spend their money to enjoy life at present. Others, however, think that they should save it for the future.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, enjoying life is something to be done in the moment and spending money is a big part of it. However, others would say that we should save money against an uncertain future.

**Thesis Statement**

I think that while spending on the things you enjoy while young is a good idea, as we mature we need to consider how our lives may pan out in the future and take steps to secure it. This essay will discuss how living for today can be enjoyable, and also how we should put some money aside for our future plans.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Living for the moment is a mantra that many people live by, they believe that there is no point in saving as we need to enjoy our lives in the present.

**Explanation**

This seems especially attractive to young people who like to buy nice things and take exotic holidays.

**Example**

For example, a survey by Barclays bank in the UK showed that 80% of people from 18-30 had little or no savings and were living from pay cheque to pay cheque.

**Reinforcement**

I used to agree with this idea as a young man and would spend every penny I had from month to month.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, the opposite view has some merits also, as life often takes unexpected turns having a reserve of cash would seem a wise move.

**Explanation**

Especially as we become older, events such as marriage, children and taking out a mortgage would be next to impossible unless a person had some modicum of savings.

**Example**

For example, when I bought my first house at 30 years old I had to put up a deposit which would have been extremely difficult for my younger self who had no interest in saving.

**Reinforcement**

In my view, everyone should seriously consider putting something aside for these important life events.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, living a spend, spend, spend, lifestyle is indeed enjoyable and has much to commend it for young people. However, I would argue that as we mature it is important to begin making some financial preparations for the future as we never know when marriage, or buying a house will come into our lives.

355 words

**Essay #76 (Theme: Salary)**

***Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Professional athletes and sportspeople can make a considerable amount of money when compared to people working in more important jobs. Some believe this discrepancy can be justified, while others would argue that this is not fair.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, if people are willing to pay to watch sports stars, then it is justified. This essay will discuss how sports are entertainment, and why some believe there should be a limit on earnings.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Living in a free market economy means that people are free to spend their money to be entertained as they like.

**Explanation**

In my view, given that sportspeople are essentially entertainers, such as footballers, and tennis players for example, then if people are willing to pay to see them play there can be no objection to this.

**Example**

For example, successful teams and players attract corporate sponsorship for boots and clothing and kit, then they will make even more money which again is justified according to life in a capitalist system.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, there are more worthy occupations in society whose earnings fall far below that of sports professionals, which some believe to be unfair.

**Explanation**

Comparing someone whose only skill is kicking a ball for 90 minutes against someone who might potentially be a life saver is ridiculous and frankly insulting. According to some, this disparity could be fixed by state action, such as putting a wage cap on sporting earnings, but as this would be against free-market orthodoxy and political will it is unlikely to happen.

**Example**

Obvious examples include, Drs, nurses, firefighters and police, all of whom make great contributions to their countries but whose wages are a pittance compared to the athletic entertainers.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, many successful athletes make significant sums of money from their sport in comparison to more societally useful workers, which some believe to be fair, while others would argue not. In my view, due to the system we live in, it is correct that people should be free to spend their money on watching famous sports people and contribute to their high wages. The only alternative to this would be state control on salaries which no politician currently has the political will to suggest.

360 words

**Essay #77 (Theme: Success)**

***It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents, for instance for sport or music, and others are not. However, it is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician.***

***Discuss both views and give your own opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

There is a general belief that certain people are innately talented at birth, in music or at sport for example, while others are not so fortunate. However, others would argue that any child can learn how to be a good musician or sports person.

**Thesis Statement**

In my opinion, talent is innate and cannot be replicated by teaching, however coaching can help some children be good in music and sport albeit not as good as the already talented.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

From birth our genetic makeup determines how tall we will be, our physical shape and our intelligence.

**Explanation**

In the case of sport, some people have biological advantages, for example many world leading runners are Ethiopian.

**Example**

Research shows they are genetically pre-disposed to run longer than other nationalities. Also, in music, many successful musicians showed a talent at a very early age, obvious examples here are the famous composers: Bizet, Paganini, Mozart, and Chopin who all achieved fame before their teenage years.

**Reinforcement**

These talented individuals are seen as exceptions compared to the majority who are often not so skilled.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, others would argue that normal children can be taught to be good at sports.

**Explanation**

In the field of music many parents send their children to after school lessons in piano and violin and some of these students do go on to be successful musicians, proving that hard work can compensate to some extent for a lack of initial talent.

**Example**

This is true to some extent, for example, in China and Russia children are sent to martial arts school and ballet school from the age of four upwards and often become excellent practitioners of Kung Fu and ballet in their teenage years.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, some believe talent to be innate, others believe a lack of it can be compensated for by teaching. In my view, both views are correct as genetics undeniably plays an important role in whether a person is good at something. That being said, dedication, hard-work, and proper coaching can make up for a lack of talent in some children.

338 words

**Essay #78 (Theme: Health)**

***Some people believe technology is a danger to people's health and society while some say it is a solution to many issues.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

According to some, technology is dangerous to both individual and societal health, while others believe it is the answer to it.

**Thesis Statement**

In my opinion, some forms of technological devices are indeed a menace. This essay will discuss, how constant engagement with smart phones is a hazard, and how mobile phones are helping spread knowledge.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

While most technology is a benefit, some aspects such as mobile phones, are not.

**Explanation**

The phenomenon of people of all ages staring mindlessly at their screens while walking along causing accidents is commonplace. Apart from the physical harm this may cause, the constant use of mobile phones is making society a more shallow, narcissistic environment as people withdraw from the real world.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the University of Bath revealed that 80% of smartphone users admitted to having some accident while using their phone.

**Reinforcement**

This research also showed that the more hours people spend on their devices, the more selfish they were perceived to be.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Despite this negative side, in some parts of the world, mobile phones are proving invaluable.

**Explanation**

In some less developed areas, such as Africa, where the infrastructure is not available, mobile phones are a tool to access medical knowledge, and allow students to take online distance courses.

**Example**

For example, the WHO reported that in many remote villages medical staff were able to use their mobiles to contact specialists and get diagnoses which they would otherwise be unable to do. Also, the University of Harvard reported that in 2016 the take up of its open online courses showed that over 70% of students came from the Global South.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some technological tools such as mobiles having negative effects in some countries, in the less well-off parts of the world, these devices are having positive life changing consequences for many people.

302 words

**Essay #79 (Theme: Employment)**

***Nowadays many women are joining the police and military forces. However, some people believe that these jobs are not suitable for women.***

***Discuss both views and give your own opinion.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently, the number of female soldiers and police officers is increasing, however some people think that this kind of employment is unsuitable for women.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, women do have a role to play in these services. This essay will discuss, the need for women officers in delicate situations, and the physical limitations of female personnel.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

In many countries around the world women serve in both military and policing capacities.

**Explanation**

There are many circumstances where female officers are needed to arrest female offenders, search women combatants and other sensitive situations. This is often a matter of cultural sensitivity for certain religions and regions. As well as this, many armies already have females in not just support categories, but also in combat roles.

**Example**

For example, the Israeli Defence Force has had women combatants since its formation in 1948, a tradition which is proudly continued to this day.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, many would argue that due to gender differences in terms of physical strength, women are not best suited for these kind of jobs.

**Explanation**

In terms of arresting male criminals, it is possible that a female officer may struggle with a larger, aggressive, opponent. The same argument has been made in the military, that women soldiers are smaller and less combat effective than their male counterparts.

**Example**

For example, in the American army until recent legislation, women were barred from full combat roles due to these concerns.

**Reinforcement**

This situation is still the case in several countries, that is women can only serve in support roles but not full combat.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite many female soldiers and officers serving in many forces around the world, there is still opposition in some quarters to this development. My personal view is that having both genders in the army and police is necessary, and may be a benefit when dealing with women criminals or combatants.

307 words

### Essay #80 (Theme: Travel)

***Some people believe that travel is necessary to learn about other nations. Others, however, think that TV and the Internet are the best ways to learn about other countries.***

***Discuss both views and give your opinion.***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

According to some, in order to learn about other countries, it is required to visit them in person, whereas others say that using TV and the internet is a better way to do so.

##### **Thesis Statement**

My personal view is that travelling to a country is the only way to truly know about it. This essay will discuss the in-depth knowledge travel can bring, versus the immediate access to information that internet and TV provides.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

From one perspective, when you travel throughout a country or region, you have an intimate connection to it that no other experience can give you.

##### **Explanation**

The sights, sounds, smells, the feel of the soil, speaking to the people, this is truly knowing a country.

##### **Example**

To give a personal example, before living in Turkey, I had read books about the country and watched programmes, but the experience of living and travelling there for a couple of years really taught me something that no amount of media could.

##### **Reinforcement**

The attitudes of the Turks, their politics, culture, all this I learned in person.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, many people would say that in today's media rich age, such things are unnecessary and we can learn all we need from our armchair.

**Explanation**

There are a myriad of programmes and websites we can use to find out about language, politics, and culture and this information is freely available at little cost.

**Example & reinforcement**

For example, a quick Google search will reveal there are possibly hundreds of travel blogs online, where the writers travel and take photos and write articles of their adventures, all of which we can read and watch at home without having the expense and exposure to danger that travel might entail.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, despite some people believing that TV and online media can make up for every experience, in my view, nothing can beat the real physical connection that travel can teach you about a land and its people.

316 words

## Two-part Question Essay Structure

### Introduction

#### **1. Paraphrase**

Restate the topic using methods like synonyms, word formation, change in grammar and word order.

#### **2. Thesis Statement**

Answer the question(s) and briefly say what you will be talking about in the body paragraphs. For example, in this question '**What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?**' as you can see there are two questions, hence a two-part question, you simply and directly answer the two questions briefly: I believe the these problems are caused by ..... and a possible solution would be .....

### Body Paragraph 1

#### **3. Topic Sentence**

Mention the first idea/view/reason that you outlined in the introduction.

#### **4. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

#### **5. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

#### **6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.



## Body Paragraph 2

### **6. Topic Sentence**

Mention the second idea that you outlined in the introduction

### **7. Explanation**

Add a sentence or two to elaborate more on the idea; be specific and narrow down the topic sentence. Do not repeat or reword the previous sentence without any progression. While narrowing the idea down, try not to digress from the main, central point of the paragraph as the paragraph should have one central idea.

### **8. Example**

Give an example to convince the reader; not a general example, be as specific as possible. Refer to who, where, when, how, etc. Your example, depending on the context, can be social, academic or personal.

### **6. Reinforcement**

Write a concession sentence or reinforce/reiterate example/main idea.

## Conclusion

### **13-14. Restate topic & main ideas**

Rewrite the introduction, use different words, do not copy it. In this paragraph you are paraphrasing the topic and giving a summary of main ideas.

**Essay #81 (Theme: Health)**

***In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.***

***What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In several countries there has been an increase in the average weight of the population along with a related decrease in the general levels of fitness.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe these problems are caused by a sedentary lifestyle at work and at home. This essay will describe how the way work has changed as the principal cause, and suggest an innovative employer initiative as a possible solution.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Arguably, one of the main causes of the health crisis is a lack of sufficient physical exercise for many people these days.

**Explanation**

It can be said that the nature of work in the last century has changed from manual to mainly office based jobs. This, along with mass transportation, and a sedentary lifestyle in general means that daily physical exercise is a thing of the past for a considerable number of workers.

**Example**

For example, research by the National Labour Unit in the UK has shown that the number of manual jobs has fallen by 70% in the last quarter century along with a similar increase in office based work.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

A simple solution to this problem would be if employers were, for example, to install gym equipment on their premises or offer subsidised gym memberships to its workers.

**Explanation**

Then the opportunities would exist for workers to take some exercise during the work day and help to offset this condition.

**Example**

A recent survey in the UK suggested that if employers took such measures 85% of their staff would seriously think about making use of these options which could potentially have a significant impact on the public health.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, average weights have increased and fitness levels have decreased, caused by a lack of exercise. This essay recommends that to combat this problem, employers should take some responsibility for providing their workers with the necessary conditions for exercise.

300 words

**Essay #82 (Theme: Health)**

***Childhood obesity is becoming a serious problem in many countries.***

***Explain the main causes and effects of this problem, and suggest some possible solutions.***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

The problem of obese children is becoming increasingly serious in many parts of the world.

**Thesis Statement**

It is argued that a sedentary lifestyle and over-consumption of fast food are the main causes of this, and the effects will be a shorter lifespan as adults. This essay will also show that parental control is a possible answer to this problem.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

For many children these days, exercise and healthy nutrition are a thing of the past.

**Explanation**

Watching TV and playing video games all day long, while eating sweets, crisps, and hamburgers seems to be the daily norm. This in many cases will lead to a generation of overweight children who will in turn become overweight adults with the attendant health problems, such as a shorter lifespan, that will bring.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by Edinburgh Medical University showed that 80% of male heart attack victims among 40-50-year-olds were overweight as both children and adults.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, this situation could be remedied at the source if parents exercised proper control and responsibility for their children's lifestyle.

**Explanation**

This would mean strict rules on how many hours their children could play video games, as well as refusing to let them eat unhealthy foods such as burgers, crisps, and the like.

**Example**

One way to achieve this, for example, would be to act as a role model and set a good example by taking the children outside for exercise and teaching them the benefits of correct nutrition.

**Reinforcement**

This may be difficult for some weak parents but in the end their children will thank them for this.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, obesity among children is increasingly commonplace around the world, this essay believes this is a consequence of inactivity and improper consumption habits, a solution to this could be to make parents take charge of their children more firmly and set good examples for both exercise and diet.

311 words

### Essay #83 (Theme: Money)

***Paying with a credit card is a common habit nowadays. Credit cards make it easy to buy now and pay later.***

***What are some problems caused by credit card overuse and what can be done about these problems?***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

Many people make purchases with credit cards nowadays as it is easy to buy now and pay later for goods or services.

**Thesis Statement**

The main problem with this is that it can lead to high levels of personal debt, however a possible solution might be for banks to make rigorous checks on customer finances before issuing these cards.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Having easy access to credit can lead to a person owing a lot of money.

**Explanation**

This ready finance can lead to some people spending irresponsibly as they often pay off one card by taking out another from a different bank, thus adding to their debt.

**Example**

For example, a survey by The Bank of England in 2015 showed that out of 10,000 bank customers, over 75% admitted to having two or more credit cards and having personal debts of several thousand pounds.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

To solve this problem, banks should have a joint database of all customers to show who has applied for a card and they should also set a strict limit on the amount of credit for each person.

**Explanation**

This sharing of information will stop people having multiple cards which they cannot afford.

**Example**

For example, in some countries (China, Russia, and Turkey) strict checks are made on citizens' finances with a minimum amount of money needed in an account before a card could be issued and only card per citizen is authorised.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although easy credit is blamed for rising debt levels, this is a relatively easy problem to solve if stricter banking regulations were enforced. If all banks shared customer data and agreed to cooperate with each other when issuing credit cards, this could well solve this issue.

276 words

**Essay #84 (Theme: Crime)**

***In recent years, there has been a considerable rise in crimes committed by young people in cities.***

***What has caused this?***

***What solutions can you suggest***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Recently, juvenile criminal activity in cities has been increasing.

**Thesis Statement**

One cause of this could well be the unemployment rate among some groups of young people, while one solution could be to target government resources at this section of society.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

One of the many negative consequences of youth employment is a concomitant rise in the crime statistics amongst this group.

**Explanation**

When young people have nothing to do and no source of income it is an unfortunate fact that for some of them, crime, with its promise of easy money, seems a good solution. This is particularly prevalent in cities and major urban areas as the higher the population, the more percentage of youth, and greater chances for criminal activity.

**Example**

For example, recent research by the University of Bath showed that over 70% of petty criminal acts in London in 2016 were committed by the 16 to 24 age group of unemployed.

**Reinforcement**

As the unemployment figures seem set to rise with poor economic growth in the UK, crime is similarly expected to increase too.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, this depressing scenario need not be left unchallenged.

**Explanation**

Although it is difficult for governments to create jobs across all sectors of industry and across all sections of society, targeted job creation is possible.

**Example**

For example, by creating apprenticeships in cooperation with industry, it is possible to create training opportunities which lead to full-time work in building, electrical engineering and plumbing. The UK government recently announced such a scheme with a plan to create 10,000 new apprentice placements by 2020.

**Reinforcement**

If this ambitious plan works, then we can hope to see a drop in young people out of work, and also hopefully out of jail.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the rise in city wide crimes committed by young people in recent years can be attributed to, amongst other things, a lack of employment opportunities. To combat this, government initiatives to develop training which will lead to permanent jobs seems a significant way to tackle this growing crime epidemic.

328 words

**Essay #85 (Theme: Internet)**

***The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.***

***What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

The way that people access and share data has undergone an undeniable transformation with the advent of the internet, however this change has brought new problems into being.

**Thesis Statement**

One of the most significant issues are new types of crime, while a possible solution to these might be stricter controls over internet access.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

As new technologies enter our lives, someone, somewhere will find a way to exploit them.

**Explanation**

Cybercrimes such as fraud and identity theft are one of the drawbacks of life online. Many people have paid for goods that did not exist or had their personal details stolen by internet fraudsters.

**Example**

For example, the FBI estimates that losses from cybercrimes were in excess of 1.3 billion dollars in 2016. This is one of the drawbacks of new data sharing technologies.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, there is a way to reduce or halt these activities, which is to remove the anonymity of online access.

**Explanation**

Many internet companies allow you to create an email, or join a shopping site with no adequate background checks, so for criminals it is relatively easy to fake their identity and commit crimes.

**Example**

For example, if people had to supply photo ID before signing up for an email or creating an online presence, this would significantly reduce the number of fraudsters operating on the internet.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although the internet has brought many benefits, it has not come without its drawbacks such as new types of crime in the form of fraudulent selling and stealing of personal information. These offences can be reduced if not halted, by stricter personal identification rules for everyone accessing online services such as supplying photo ids when signing up.

275 words

## Essay #86 (Theme: City)

***A rise in the standard of living in a country often only seems to benefit cities rather than rural areas.***

***What problems might this difference cause?***

***How might these problems be reduced?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It has been argued that rising living standards appear to only be of benefit to cities and not to the general countryside.

**Thesis Statement**

This imbalance may well result in more people moving to cities for a better life causing overcrowding and other issues. While a possible solution might be for government intervention to redistribute wealth to all its citizens.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It cannot be disputed that most people want a better life for themselves and their families.

**Explanation**

Therefore, when jobs, and better living standards become available it is to be expected that people will move to where they will best be found. However, in the case of the difference between town and country, when mass migration occurs to a city there are the inevitable problems of overpopulation: rising rents, unsafe and unsuitable accommodation, less places for children at school and rising crime.

**Example**

For example, to take one of these problems into account, a recent survey by Tsinghua University reported that over the last five years 20% more people moved into Chinese cities from the countryside resulting in a 40% rental increase in average apartments.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, this mass migration from country to city could be eased by state redistribution of finance to redevelop rural areas.

**Explanation**

If governments were to pay for companies to move to the country, or to encourage universities to establish themselves outside of the cities, then many people would not need to relocate.

**Example**

For example, this policy has been put into effect in rural parts of India in recent years as a report by the New Delhi Business Institute showed that investment by the state in the countryside has meant a 50% reduction in migrant numbers.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although rising living standards are beneficial in general, if they only benefit certain sections of society this will inevitably cause mass migration from country to town. One way around this problem could be targeted state spending to reduce people's need to relocate.

319 words

### Essay #87 (Theme: Computer)

***Students are becoming more and more reliant on computers.***

***What are some of the problems associated with reliance on computers, and what are some of the possible solutions?***

#### Introduction

##### **Paraphrase**

For many students, computers are becoming an increasingly important tool in their studies.

##### **Thesis Statement**

This essay believes that this over reliance is leading to an uncritical acceptance of internet sources in essay writing and possibly plagiarism. However, solutions exist in better training at university in critical thinking and the dangers of copy pasting in academic writing.

#### Body Paragraph 1

##### **Topic Sentence**

According to many tutors, the number one problem at school, college, and universities is learners over using internet sources in their writing assignments.

##### **Explanation**

Prior to the internet, students would have to read many peer reviewed books and journal articles for a paper and all writing would have to be rewritten and paraphrased. However, now it is possible to copy and paste from the internet and this is what many teachers are seeing in their daily work.

##### **Example**

For example, a survey by the NUT (National Union of Teachers) in the UK, revealed that 80% of teachers say that plagiarism and uncritical recycling of web pages is an everyday occurrence in their students' work.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence & Explanation**

To solve this problem, many universities now have a study skills module for first year students which teaches them how to use the internet properly and outlines the dangers of simply uncritically copy and pasting.

**Example**

For example, when I was last at university all students had to take an online anti-plagiarism/study skills course and had to pass it before our studies could begin.

**Reinforcement**

This had the effect of letting students know what was acceptable and unacceptable in academic work and if anyone was caught misusing the internet in the future, they had no defence that they did not know about it.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the reliance of learners on computers is no doubt set to increase in the future. This brings problems such as student misuse of the internet for research and study purposes. Despite this, academic institutions can teach their students how to use online resources acceptably, and avoid plagiarism and bad study habits.

320 words

## Essay #88 (Theme: Crime)

***Many criminals commit further crimes as soon as they are released from prison.***

***What do you think are the causes of this?***

***What possible solutions can you suggest?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

There is a tendency towards re-offending by some criminals upon their release from prison.

**Thesis Statement**

In my view, this is caused by a lack of options for employment for convicted felons. I believe a possible solution to this problem may be re-education and skills training for prisoners.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

For many criminals finding a job upon release from prison is a major problem, as many offenders are in general not well educated and have no skills, it is not surprising no employer will hire them.

**Explanation**

This being so, it is equally unsurprising that a significant number return to crime, as the only way to make a living.

**Example**

For example, research by the UK Home Office shows that for some low level crimes, the reoffending rate is as high as 65%.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

To combat this worrying tendency, I would argue that a comprehensive programme of re-education and work related skills training be undertaken in all prisons.

**Explanation**

Prisoners could have literacy classes, math classes, and practical trade instruction such as plumbing, electrical wiring, etc. This may be expensive in the short term but the savings over the long term as ex-convicts find work, pay taxes, and more importantly do not commit more crimes, would be significant.

**Example**

For example, such a programme has been successfully implemented in Holland recently and the re-offending rates are extremely low at only 5% in 2016.

**Reinforcement**

This pilot scheme shows that, if the political will is there, crime rates can be dramatically reduced by such a programme.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, to combat the high number of crimes committed after release from prison, it is suggested that the issue of prisoner unemployment be addressed. This could be achieved by prison workshops for illiteracy and work related skills which has been seen to work in other countries.

292 words

**Essay #89 (Theme: Reading)**

***More and more people are reading electronically these days.***

***What problems might this cause?***

***How might these problems be resolved?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

As technology develops, more people are choosing to read e-books and online news than traditional paper versions.

**Thesis Statement**

The main problem of this trend is that it will inevitably put people out of work, while a possible solution might be to retrain sections of the work force into e-publishing.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Although reading via smart phone, laptop and tablet might be very good news for the environment, it is not so good for the print workers.

**Explanation**

That is to say, the many thousands of people who work in printing paper books and newspapers are surplus to requirements in this modern age of e-reading. As a consequence, they will lose their jobs.

**Example**

A recent survey by the NUPW (national union of print workers) in 2015 showed that an estimated 60% of print jobs were expected to go over the next five years, based on current trends.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

As it is impossible to put technology “back in the bottle” as it were, one solution to offset these job losses and the harm they would cause the economy, would be to retrain print workers in the e-publishing field.

**Explanation**

There are many possibilities for retraining, such as graphic design, proofreading and coding, all of which would keep people in employment in the same general area.

**Example**

For example, the publishing house Cambridge University Press recently announced it planned to create 500 new jobs via retraining at its Cambridge office for electronic printing. Although only one example, it shows the potential for jobs if every traditional publishing house followed suit.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, as e-reading is set to continue into the foreseeable future, this could well cause redundancies in the printing industry unless some retraining of print workers begins. If responsible employers have the foresight to initiate retraining in the workplace this situation might be resolved.

295 words

## Essay #90 (Theme: Media)

***Over the past few decades, the media has promoted the image of young thin women as being ideal.***

***What problems has this caused?***

***What solutions can you suggest to this issue?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In recent years the media has portrayed an idealised image of women as being young, and especially, thin.

**Thesis Statement**

This has caused several issues, particularly among impressionable teenage girls as they feel under pressure to conform to this body image sometimes at the cost of their health. I believe an answer to this worrying situation is to ban negative stereotypes of women from the national media.

**Topic Sentence****Body Paragraph 1**

Online, in the newspapers and magazines, and in film media, there has been a tendency for some time now to show an idealised feminine beauty as young and thin.

**Explanation**

This has led to an intolerable pressure on many young girls to match up to this ideal, often by starving themselves to look as skinny as the models they have seen. Obviously, not eating very much is not a healthy practice, especially when you are a teenager as your body is still developing.

**Example**

For example, a recent study by the British Medical Council has revealed a fifty per cent rise in teenage anorexia over the last ten years with the associated medical conditions that causes.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

One way to solve this problem would be to remove such misleading images from the public space so young girls will not be exposed to them.

**Explanation**

Government legislation should be enacted to compel advertisers and other actors to be more responsible in their choice of models and female imagery.

**Example**

For example, this has been proposed recently in Sweden and the general public have shown themselves to support this worthwhile initiative by the government there.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, over the last decade or so, irresponsible media promotion of harmful female “ideals” has resulted in young girls feeling pressurised to conform to this image. A consequence of which is health issues such as anorexia in many cases. To resolve this problem and negate this negative pressure, a ban on the use of such imagery of skinny young models is proposed.

316 words

### Essay #91 (Theme: Travel)

***It is becoming increasingly popular for people to travel to tourist destinations during public holidays.***

***What problems does this cause?***

***What solutions are there to these problems?***

#### Introduction

**Paraphrase**

More and more people are travelling to tourist spots on national holidays these days.

**Thesis Statement**

This increasing number of visitors results in traffic congestion and litter. A possible solution to this could be to charge people for admission to tourist sites, then the revenue can be spent on better traffic management schemes and litter collection.

#### Body Paragraph 1

**Topic Sentence**

Every public holiday it is common to see many visitors flocking to popular attractions such as national parks, or similar beauty spots.

**Explanation**

However, this popularity comes at a cost of traffic congestion, as many people travel by car, and also littering as many people are not so particular about taking their rubbish home with them.

**Example**

For example, the North Yorkshire National Park in the UK has an estimated 4 million daytrips a year, and leave approximately 5 tons of rubbish per every million visits.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

To solve these problems, if people had to pay for admission to such places, then the income generated could be spent on hiring staff to direct traffic, and also to hire dedicated litter collectors.

**Explanation**

Such a scheme may be unpopular but if the benefits were made clear, then many people would see the logic behind such a move.

**Example**

For example, the local council in The Lake District (in the UK) has a policy of charging 10 GBP per car for visitors to its most well-known spots. This money is then reinvested in better facilities and clean-up operations which helps to maintain the natural beauty of the area.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, increasing tourist numbers during holiday periods can have a negative impact on popular beauty spots. This can be ameliorated by a policy of fee charging with the income derived being spent on efficient facility management.

289 words

**Essay #92 (Theme: Life)**

*In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing.*

*What problems will this cause for individuals and society?*

*Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.*

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In the “western” more developed parts of the world, more people are living longer and longer lives.

**Thesis Statement**

This will inevitably result in problems for individuals, such as having to find sufficient income for existence, and for the wider society, as in having an ageing population which needs younger workers to pay taxes to support them. To solve these problems, I believe the mandatory retirement age needs to be increased, and citizens should be encouraged to have more children possibly via tax incentives and government financial support.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, the average state pension in many countries is insufficient to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

**Explanation**

Therefore, if more people are living longer and claiming state pensions, then the average citizen will have less income from the state and may well find themselves in real poverty. This will have a knock on effect on the wider society as poor pensioners will be claiming more state benefits to live on, which will in turn be a drain on other expenses such as schools and hospitals.

**Example**

For example, the US State Department recently reported that to fill this deficit in the coming years, taxes for those still in work would have to rise by an extra 20% per household.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, a possible solution to this issue could be to raise the national retirement age, from 60/65 to 65/70 for women and men.

**Explanation**

This would allow people to work longer and save more for their retirement without relying on state handouts. Additionally, if there were government support for families to have more children, then the birth rate could be increased and the ratio of old to young would be reduced over the coming decades.

**Example**

For instance, the US Department of Family Planning estimates that by reducing young parents' income tax by 20% per child, this would encourage a significant increase in birth rates over the next 20 years.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, an ever increasing ageing population presents many problems such as pensioner poverty and a fall in expenditure on other essential services apart from pensions. However, if a long term view is taken, raising the retirement age and giving tax breaks for families may mitigate these problems in the future.

364 words

**Essay #93 (Theme: Environment)**

***Describe some of the ways in which humans are damaging the environment.***

***What can governments do to address these problems?***

***What can individual people do?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It can certainly be argued that humans are responsible for a variety of environmental problems, such as pollution of the atmosphere and a significant amount of waste and litter.

**Thesis Statement**

These problems require action from governments and individuals, such as introducing laws to control emissions, and at a personal level, choosing to live a “greener” lifestyle to combat waste production.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, two of the biggest current threats to the environment are air pollution and waste.

**Explanation**

To address air pollution first, gas emissions from factories and cars are a major cause of global warming, which is having a devastating effect on the planet, such as melting of the ice caps and inclement weather conditions like typhoons and floods. Although individuals could make a difference here, it is almost certainly governments who would have to wield executive power to legislate and possibly impose fines and new taxes to reduce air pollution.

**Example**

For example, they could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories or to force companies to use renewable energy from solar, wind or water power. They could also impose ‘green taxes’ on drivers and in this way, people would be encouraged to use public transport thereby reducing emissions.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

The second major problem can be tackled at a more personal level.

**Explanation**

That is to say, individuals should take responsibility for the impact they have on the environment. They can choose products with less packaging, and recycle as much as possible.

**Example**

For example, most supermarkets now provide reusable bags for shoppers as well as 'banks' for recycling glass, plastic and paper in their car parks. By reusing and recycling, we can help to reduce waste.

Additionally, people should be made aware of the environmental benefits of adopting a "greener" way of life.

In this regard, the state can play a role by sponsoring advertisements and public awareness campaigns to help citizens make the right choices about consumption and waste disposal.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although these problems may seem insurmountable, in order to make real change and protect the environment both national governments and individuals must play their part in this endeavour.

346 Words

**Essay #94 (Theme: Machine)**

***Nowadays people use different machines and devices to do housework.***

***Do you see it continuing as a trend?***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently there are many electrical devices to help carry out household tasks. I see this trend continuing in the future.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay will discuss the main advantage of saving time, and also a possible disadvantage which is increasing laziness.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

With the pace of modern life becoming ever more hectic, it is easy to imagine this trend of using machines in the house to carry on in the future.

**Explanation**

As more and more women are working these days and have less time for household chores, I predict that all housework will be carried out by machines.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by The Guardian newspaper showed that all the major electrical equipment manufacturers are building robots to do housework such as vacuuming automatically.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence 1**

With this increase comes both benefits and drawbacks, the major plus side to this trend is that more people will have an increase in leisure time free from housework.

**Explanation**

For many working women, their day does not end when they return home, they often have many household tasks such as laundry and vacuuming to perform.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by Women's World magazine showed that 80% of women spend two hours a day after work on housework, time which could be saved if devices such as automatic washing machines and remote vacuum machines were available.

**Topic Sentence 2**

However, too much reliance on such machines may lead to laziness and associated health issues.

**Explanation & Example**

It is true to say that for some people the only exercise they get in their day is by such activities as washing and vacuuming, if they are not careful even this minor exercise will be lost to them.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, more and more household chores in the future will be carried out with the aid of machines, which will save busy women time, but may also encourage sloth and idleness if too many devices are relied upon.

312 words

**Essay #95 (Theme: School)**

***In many countries, exercise and sport classes are being replaced by academic subjects.***

***What is your opinion?***

***What effects can it have on children's lives?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

In many schools around the world traditional academic subjects are replacing sports and exercise in the curriculum.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe this is a negative step as it may affect children's health and their learning skills.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Taking sport out of the school day is a retrograde measure.

**Explanation**

For many children the school day is possibly the only time they will get any chance to develop themselves physically as many kids will not do any exercise after school. If the modern tendency for computer games is as strong as believed, then as soon as they get home, a lot of pupils will reach for the Xbox or similar device and not exert themselves.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey of primary school children in the UK showed that for 80% of kids, school is the only time they do any physical activity at all.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

This lack of exercise will have several effects, one is obvious unfitness and weight gain, the second is the correlation between exercise and learning.

**Explanation**

If a child is forced to sit down for 8 hours a day in class, then some increase in weight and drop in fitness is inevitable. Many studies are available that show the risks of living a sedentary lifestyle. Another point is the correlation between physical activity in school children and memory retention of their lessons.

**Example**

Research by the University of York showed that an hour of exercise a day helped young brain function improve by 20% due to increased blood oxygenation. For both these reasons then, some form of sport would be beneficial for all pupils.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, in my view, replacing sport for academia for children is a negative step. Youngsters need movement and exercise in their day for health reasons, and also for the mental boost it can give them.

297 words

**Essay #96 (Theme: Food)**

***Many people are not interested in how their food has been produced. They only care about how much it costs.***

***How true is this statement?***

***What influences people when they buy food?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

For a lot of people, their only concern is how much they have to pay for their food, they have no interest in how it was produced.

**Thesis Statement**

I believe this statement to be accurate. Depending upon their circumstances, I think that for many consumers, the overwhelming factor when buying food is that of cost.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It is a perhaps a generalisation, but a significant number of shoppers when rushing around the supermarket simply do not consider issues about food production.

**Explanation**

With the exception of some well publicised media scare regarding food safety that crops up from time to time, consumers seem ignorant of where food comes from. For many people, there is a massive disconnect between what they eat, and what they know about what they eat.

**Example**

For example, a survey by The Guardian newspaper last year showed that 80% of primary schoolchildren did not know that a beef burger came from a cow.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Even in developed, well-off countries, many housewives who typically do the household shop, analyse the price of the various brands on the supermarket shelves before making a purchase.

**Explanation**

Perhaps because of ignorance or indifference, the average shopper seems to give little or no thought to ethical or other concerns of the items on sale.

**Example**

To give a personal example, I remember when I go shopping with my mother, she always buys the supermarket own brands as they are cheaper, even though the big name brands may be better quality wise and be produced in a more ethical or environmentally friendly way.

**Reinforcement**

For her, it was more important to get a “bargain” and get more for her money than anything else.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, a significant number of consumers prioritise price over production when shopping for food. This, I believe, is due to indifference, or to being on a tight budget, where the quantity of food matters more than its quality.

311 words

**Essay #97 (Theme: Travel)**

***Today more people are travelling than ever before.***

***Why is this the case?***

***What are the benefits of travelling for the traveller?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

Currently, the number of people travelling around the world is more than it has ever been.

**Thesis Statement**

Arguably, this is in part due to low cost airlines compared with the recent past. This essay will discuss the ease of international travel, and also how travel can be beneficial for the tourist by allowing access to foreign cultures.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

One of the main reasons for an increase in traveller numbers is the drop in prices for air journeys.

**Explanation**

Since the 1970s, air ticket prices have dropped considerably and if we consider the current crop of budget airlines like Ryan Air and Easy Jet, we can see how prices are currently the lowest they have ever been.

**Example**

For example, when tied-in to a similar increase in the rise of the middle classes in many countries with more disposable income than ever before, it is not hard to see how this current boom has arisen.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

This increase has many benefits for the travellers themselves, one of which is the chance to experience first-hand a different culture, country, and language.

**Explanation**

Admittedly, the internet allows us to see, hear, and communicate with people from around the world and gain some insights into how other people live but to my mind this is only a superficial experience. For many people, nothing can compare to actually being in another country and seeing for oneself the landmarks, the cities, not to mention interacting with the local populace.

**Example**

For example, from my own experience I can say that travel has given me more inside knowledge of Central Europe than any internet, TV show, or book, could ever have.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the current high level of people travelling around the world is probably going to continue for many years to come given the relatively cheap price of many flights around the world, and the plethora of budget airlines to take advantage of this trend. As well as this, the advantages of such travel speak for themselves, as more people will now have the opportunity to see and learn about new countries, cultures, and languages first hand.

345 words

**Essay #98 (Theme: Museum)**

***Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists but not local people.***

***Why is this the case and what can be done to attract more local people to visit the places?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It is a fact that locals tend not to visit the cultural attractions, such as museums and sites of historical interest in their country, leaving them to be visited in the main by tourists.

**Thesis Statement**

This is in part due to a lack of interest among local people about these places. To remedy this problem, more governmental promotion of such sites needs to be done to arouse the interest and pride of the indigenous population.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

For many people, local history is perhaps not so interesting and possibly too familiar.

**Explanation**

This is in marked contrast to tourists who often make a special point of visiting such places as part of their tourist must see experience when in a foreign country. It is a common phenomenon that many people find interest in what is strange and new; if this is so, then it is no wonder museums and other sites of cultural and historical importance are ignored by the locals.

**Example**

For example, a recent survey by the Guardian newspaper showed that 80% of adults surveyed would rather go shopping than visit a local museum.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

To attract more local visitors a new approach should be considered, perhaps by appealing to national pride.

**Explanation**

That is to say, if a site is promoted as being of national significance by the state, then people are more likely to make a special trip, to teach their children or to feel a part of something unique to the nation.

**Example**

For example, in China, considerably more Chinese visit the Great Wall of China than tourists.

**Reinforcement**

This is due to the government promoting the Wall as a uniquely Chinese site to make the citizens feel proud of their nation and its long history.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, more tourists visit a country's historical attractions than local people. This is in part because of a lack of interest in such history by the indigenous populace. To remedy this, a new strategy of promotion by the state should be introduced to encourage a sense of pride in the history of a given nation.

339 words

**Essay #99 (Theme: Help)**

***Rich countries help poor countries financially to eliminate poverty, but this is not working well.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

***What are the other factors required to solve this problem?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

It is common practice for many well-off nations to send financial aid to the poorer parts of the world in a bid to end world poverty, however, these efforts are often unsuccessful.

**Thesis Statement**

I would agree that merely sending money to a poor country is unlikely to wipe out poverty at its source. This essay will discuss how an end to corruption is more likely to achieve this goal.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

It is a part of many Western countries budgets these days to ring-fence a percentage of GDP to be spent on international aid.

**Explanation**

This is in line with the UN goals of poverty reduction to be implemented by 2030, however, despite some success in reducing the number of people who exist on very low incomes, total elimination of this problem has failed.

**Example**

For example, the UN has reported that although the total figures have halved, still around a billion people live on around 2 dollars a day. This is despite the estimated 100 billion dollars spent on aid annually.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

It is clear from the UN's own figures that simply giving money to poorer nations is not effective in itself.

**Explanation**

One reason why this does not work is arguably the corruption culture in many countries which means that aid money is misspent or stolen; if that is so, then this cultural practice needs to end.

**Example**

For example, the Centre for Global Development reports that this figure could be anywhere from 70 to 30% yearly in Africa alone.

If this figure is replicated worldwide, then it seems that a significant portion of aid money is wasted.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, international poverty relief efforts are not as successful as they should be; despite the huge sums involved, many people are still desperately poor. As corruption has been identified as a major drain on the total amount of money available, it is clear that if this practice were put to an end, then greater success in this worthy goal might be accomplished.

326 words

## Essay #100 (Theme: Job)

***As most people spend a major part of their adult life at work, job satisfaction is an important element of individual well-being.***

***What factors contribute to job satisfaction?***

***How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction for all workers?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

For many adults spending a significant part of their lives working, being satisfied in the work they do is particularly important for their well-being.

**Thesis Statement**

This essay will argue that having a reasonable amount of disposable income and sufficient free time to enjoy it are major factors in job satisfaction. Also, that for many workers this expectation is not always able to be met.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Having sufficient money to pay for the things we want and the leisure time to make the most of it are defining facts in having a good job.

**Explanation**

After all our bills are paid it is reasonable to want to enjoy our lives and have holidays, buy nice things and save for our future.

**Example**

For example, a 2016 survey by the Department of Employment in the UK showed that 80% of interviewees said salary and holiday entitlement were the main reasons for taking the job they did.



## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

However, while it might be the aim for every worker to enjoy such things, for many sectors of the workforce this is not the case.

**Explanation**

It has to be noted that in today's economy many jobs are part-time, and/or on Zero hours contracts. For those people working in such sectors as retail, hospitality, and other service industries, the ideal of job satisfaction is an ideal not a reality.

**Example**

For example, the Labour Research Unit in the UK showed that in 2016 50% of newly created jobs in those areas paid either minimum wages or less.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, although job satisfaction may be important, the aim of having disposable income and good holidays are only available to some sections of the workforce and that unfortunately for many employees is certainly unrealistic for them to expect.

284 words

**Essay #101 (Theme: Shopping)**

***People prefer to go shopping in the supermarket rather than small shops or local markets.***

***Why has this happened?***

***Do you think it is a positive or negative development?***

**Introduction****Paraphrase**

An increasing number of shoppers are doing their shopping in supermarkets instead of small local shops.

**Thesis Statement**

It can be argued that the main reason for this is the cheaper price of the goods for sale. In my opinion this is a positive step which will benefit less well-off people and allow them to eat good food cheaply.

**Body Paragraph 1****Topic Sentence**

Firstly, many more people shop at large supermarkets due to the price difference as opposed to local shops.

**Explanation**

Supermarkets have more spending power and can pass on any savings in price to their customers. Especially for food, supermarket chains can buy in bulk from farmers for a considerably lower price.

**Example**

For example, the UK retail chain Tesco only pays farmers 10 pence per litre for milk and can make a fair profit margin on reselling whereas local shops cannot pay this price and would charge customers more.

## Body Paragraph 2

**Topic Sentence**

Secondly, I believe that for some customers this lower price policy is extremely beneficial.

**Explanation**

Poor people cannot afford good quality food at high street prices so being able to do their shopping for less is a major benefit for them. Eating well is a pre-requisite for good health so this can only have good consequences for less well-off people.

**Example**

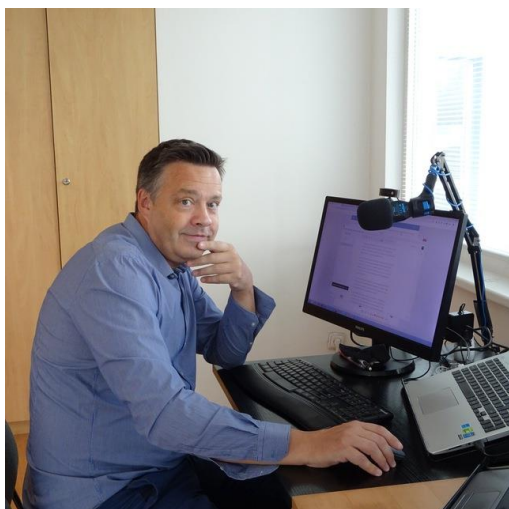
For example, research from the university of York suggests that people who buy from big markets as opposed to local shops can save up to 40% on their weekly shop.

## Conclusion

**Restate the topic & main ideas**

In conclusion, the increasing number of shoppers at supermarkets are doing so due to the price difference when compared to local shops which can only be a positive development for those people who are on low incomes.

## About us



**Kevin A Dean** is an English teacher from the UK who has taught in Turkey, China, Hungary, The Czech Republic, and Slovakia. He has a wide experience of teaching IELTS/TOEFL, general English, etc. to groups and individuals in person and online. He currently lives in Slovakia developing his online businesses.

**Payman Karimi** holds an MA in TEFL from IAU in Tehran, Iran. He has several years of teaching EFL at various levels. Having finished his MA in March 2012, he has been teaching and researching in four English skills, especially writing, in Iran and China. During his career, he has achieved vast experience of developing students' knowledge, skills, and attitude. Currently he is cooperating with Kevin A Dean to prepare international students for exams.