

## For and against essay Layout



One type of argumentative essay is that which gives advantages and disadvantages (for and against). It is a formal piece of writing in which a topic is considered from opposing points of view.

A good essay of this type should consist of:

- an introductory paragraph in which you state the topic. This means that you talk generally about the topic **without** giving your opinion;
- a main body in which the points for and the points against, along with your justification, appear in two separate paragraphs; and
- a closing paragraph in which you give either your opinion or a balanced consideration of the topic.

**Note:** In this type of essay writing, you must not include opinion words (I believe, I think, etc.) in the introduction or the main body. Opinion words can only be used in the final paragraph, where you may state your opinion on the topic.

### Points to consider

- Make a **list of the points for and against** a topic before you start writing.
- Write well-developed paragraphs in which the **points** you present are supported with **justification**, (i.e. reasons or examples). Make sure each paragraph has **more than one sentence**
- **Do not use informal style** (e.g. short forms, colloquial language, etc.) **or strong language** (e.g. I firmly believe, etc.)
- Try to **include a quotation** relevant to the topic you are writing about. For example, if you are writing an essay on space exploration, a quotation you may include is: "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." (Neil Armstrong)
- **Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.**

### Linking words/phrases

- **To introduce points:** one major advantage (or disadvantage) of, a further advantage, one point of view in favour of/against
- **To list points:** in the first place, first of all, to start with, secondly, thirdly, finally, last but not least
- **To add more points to the same topic:** what is more, furthermore, also, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this/that, not to mention the fact that
- **To make contrasting points:** on the other hand, however, in spite of, while, nevertheless, despite, even though, although, it can be argued that
- **To introduce examples:** for example, for instance, like, especially, such as, in particular
- **To conclude:** to sum up, all in all, all things considered, in conclusion, on the whole, taking everything into account, as was previously stated

### Techniques for beginnings and endings

The first paragraph may:

- **make reference to a strange scene or situation**, e.g. Some scientists believe that in the future everyone will be genetically perfect ...
- **address the reader directly**, e.g. Are you aware of any characteristics which you may have inherited from your parents? or ask a rhetorical question (question to which no answer is expected), e.g. isn't it amazing how some children look so much like their parents?
- **start with a quotation**, e.g. "Genetics holds the key to the future"

The last paragraph may:

- **state a personal opinion**, e.g. In my opinion, I believe, in my view, It seems to me. The way I see it, I think, etc.
- **give the reader something to consider**, e.g. Perhaps the world would be a safer and more efficient place if everyone was genetically perfect
- **end with a quotation**, e.g. "Genetics holds the key to the future", or a rhetorical question, e.g. What will they think of next?

### MODEL 1.

#### For and Against essay about abortion

(INTRO) From the list of main problems of today's world that mankind has to face with, the problem of abortion is definitely not to be missed one. Many discussions and opinions have been dedicated to this matter, however, it is still hard to find an eventual standpoint. The answer to the question whether abortion should be utterly banned is not unanimous; **opinions differ**.

(FOR) **Looking at the bright side of** abortion, it is the only way to prevent from unwanted pregnancy. Most of women who have fallen prey to rape get pregnant. **Although** an abortion done because of rape seems to be justified, basing on CPF statistics only 1% of abortions are performed because of rape or incest. **Another point of view in favour of** abortion is that the born child is not exposed to lack of security and essentials. Parents often decide on abortion in case of not disposing funds in order to provide a child with all its needs.

(AGAINST) **On the other hand**, from the religious point of view abortion is a sin against the fifth Decalogue's precept. We must be aware of the fact that we are not masters of life and death and cannot make such decisions, else it is just a murder of an innocent being. **Furthermore**, abortion may result in many unpleasant complications such as haemorrhages as well as infections or even mother's death. **In addition to this**, mothers have to deal with the pain and guilt and shame of knowing that they destroyed a life that was growing inside of them. Shantel Garcia, woman who had an abortion, writes, "You have no idea what you are getting yourself into mentally and emotionally. When I think back to that day when I was sitting in the room alone, I wish I had had the strength to walk out."

(CONCLUSION) **All things considered, in my opinion** acting pro-abortion is wrong as well as doing it. Legalizing this grisly procedure leads to the situation when the man-instituted law becomes more important than order established by God. **By the way**, what a cruel law punishes innocent the greatest punishment?