

# OPINION ESSAY

(Pros and Cons Essay / Composition / For and Against Essay)

It should consist of at least **FOUR** paragraphs:

- 1st paragraph: **OPENING**: Description of current situation
- 2nd paragraph: **BODY**: Advantages + examples
- 3rd paragraph: **BODY**: Disadvantages + examples
- 4th paragraph: **CONCLUSION**: Your opinion + final thoughts

## OPENING (1st paragraph)

- It is very general: You can introduce what your essay is about.
- You can describe the current situation, trends or problems related to the topic.

For example:

- It is often said that ...
- Many people claim that ...
- Nowadays / These days / Currently / Today, ..... is a hotly debated topic.
- The following essay discusses both sides of the argument.

## Grammar!!!

- To describe a change that happened before now but has present results, use the present perfect simple:  
Ex. *The number of cars on our roads **has increased** a lot over the last twenty years.*
- To describe a trend in society that is not finished, we usually use the present continuous:  
Ex. *Traffic **is getting** worse every year, and we **are** slowly **running** out of oil.*

## BODY (2nd + 3rd paragraph or more)

- TWO paragraphs with **advantages** (pros/pluses) + **examples**
- ONE paragraph with **disadvantages** (cons/negatives) + **examples**

Use these linking words:

- **As for... / When it comes to... / In terms of... / Regarding...** (Čo sa týka...)
- **According to experts, ...**
- **Firstly, ... / First of all, ... / Secondly, ... / Thirdly, ... / Last but not least, ...**
- **One advantage is that...**
- **On the one hand, ... On the other hand, ...**
- **Another point is that...**
- **Moreover, ...** (A okrem toho / A navyše...)
- **For instance, ... / For example, ... / Like ... / Such as ...** (Napríklad...)
- **What is more, ... / In addition, ... / Furthermore, ...** (A navyše...)
- **Another point worth mentioning is that...**
- **Obviously, ...** (Očividne / Evidentne...)
- **In my opinion, ... / From my point of view, ... / I reckon ... / Personally, I think...**
- **Consequently, ...** (A preto, takže...)
- **Perks (+) & Downsides (-) | Strengths (+) & Weaknesses (-) | Benefits (+) & Drawbacks (-)**
- **Actually, ...** (V skutočnosti, vlastne...)
- **Nevertheless, ...** (Napriek tomu, ...)
- **Well, ...** (Nuž...)
- **So, ...** (Nuž, takže...)
- **Anyway, ...** (Tak či onak, v každom prípade...)
- **All in all, ...** (Koniec koncov...)
- **However, ...** (Avšak / Ale / Hoci...)

## CONCLUSION (The last paragraph)

- You should **conclude/summarize** what you have said.
- If suitable, **repeat the statement** from the beginning in new words or very similar words.
- Give your **personal opinion**.

Use these linking words:

- **To sum up, ...** (*Aby som to zhrnul, ...*)
- **In conclusion, ...** (*Nakoniec / Záverom, ...*)
- **Finally, ... / Eventually, ...** (*Nakoniec, ...*)
- **All things considered, ...** (*Keď zoberieme do úvahy všetky veci, ...*)
- **Taking everything into consideration, ...**
- **Weighing up both sides of the argument, ...** (*Po zvážení všetkých argumentov, ...*)

## KEEP IN MIND!!!

- ✗ Do not use **contractions** like *it'll* or *don't!!!* (Avoid slang.)
- ✓ Use **idioms** if possible.
- ✓ Use **phrasal verbs, higher-level vocabulary, and sophisticated grammar**.
- ✓ Write your draft in **35–40 minutes max** (no more!!!) and the final copy in **20–25 minutes max** (*the official time limit is 60 minutes*).
- ✓ **B2 word limit:** 200–220 words (no more than **one page**).
- ✓ **B1 word limit:** 160–180 words (no more than **one page**).