

# How to write an OPINION ESSAY



# What is an opinion essay?

An **opinion essay** is a piece of writing where people express their thoughts and feelings about a topic.

It is composed by **4 paragraphs**:

## Introduction

1st paragraph

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

## Body

2nd and 3rd paragraphs

Explain the reasons why you agree or disagree (At least one per paragraph)

## Conclusion

3rd paragraph

Summarise your opinion in a short paragraph



# What connectors can you use?

1st

## Introduction:

Nowadays, / Today, (Actualment,).....

In my opinion, I agree / I disagree (Segons la meva opinió, estic d'acord / en desacord).....

2nd

## Body:

First of all, I think that (Primer de tot, Jo pens que).....

For example, (Per exemple,).....

3rd

In addition, I believe that (A més, jo crec que).....

For instance, (per exemple).....

4th

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, / To sum up, (En conclusió, / En resum,).....

In my view, (desde el meu punt de vista,).....



# Some examples: Check SB's page 80

## An opinion essay

### Are video games a good way to keep fit?

Nowadays, many teenagers have got video consoles at home and they often like playing active video games. These are good for you for a number of reasons.

First of all, I think that active video games are a good way to keep fit. There are lots of different types of exercise you can do such as basketball, water-skiing and dance and, what's more, you can play them in the comfort of your own home. In my opinion, these games are fun and interactive because you can play them with friends and, if you play online, you don't need to be in the same place as your friend to play.

In addition, you can play them whenever you want. Some people think that it's better to do exercise outside in the fresh air. Although this is true, it's actually difficult to play outside when it's raining or very hot so video games are a good alternative.

To sum up, I believe that video games are a fun and social way to keep fit. I think they are a good option when you can't play outside and they might encourage people to do more exercise.

### Top Tips for writing

1. Write your essay in clear paragraphs. Use phrases like *First of all*, *In addition* and *To sum up* to start each paragraph.
2. Express your own opinion using *I think*, *In my opinion* or *I believe*. Mention other viewpoints with phrases like *Some people think* and say whether you agree or disagree with them.



## An opinion essay

Nowadays all the information we could ever need is available online and some people say that means the end of having to learn anything.

It is true that these days everything you want to know is a few clicks away as long as you have internet access. However, not everyone has working internet all the time, for example in certain buildings or remote locations, so we do need to be able to remember information. Moreover, it takes time to look up everything you need to know online, whereas remembering something is immediate. The human memory is a much more efficient system.

Another problem is the quality of the information online. How do we know if it is accurate or reliable? We need to think about other facts we know and remember how to compare information from different websites. Knowing (and remembering) how to find certain information will be more important than knowing the information itself.

Finally, the internet is a good tool but it is not a useful replacement for our brains. If we did not remember anything, we would all spend even more time on our phones and computers than we already do, which is not good for society.

In conclusion, the internet offers us many things but it is still important to use our knowledge and memories. We need our memories to function without the internet and we also need to know how to use the internet properly.

### Top Tips for writing

1. Read the question carefully. Respond to all ideas in it or all parts of it.
2. Plan your ideas first and then choose the best ones.
3. Introduce your essay by **restating the question** in your own words.
4. Show understanding of **both sides of the argument**.
5. Use **linking words** to connect your ideas.
6. **Draw your conclusion** from the main ideas in your essay. Don't introduce new ideas at the end.