

An opinion essay is a **formal** piece of writing, therefore you can't use informal language. It requires your **opinion on a topic**, which must be stated clearly and supported by reasons or examples.

#### STRUCTURE:

-Introduction: Presenting the **TOPIC** and **STATING YOUR OPINION**

-Main body (2 paragraphs): present your opinions/viewpoints. **Each paragraph presents a separate viewpoint supported by reasons/examples.**

-Conclusion: **state your opinion again** using different words.

You should write all-developed paragraphs joining sentences with **connectors and linking words/phrases**. These make your writing more interesting to the reader, and easier to understand.

#### Useful Expressions

I (do not) think / believe that ...

In my opinion, ...

I believe ...

I hate / love / don't mind ...

As I see it, ...

There's no doubt that ...

It's clear that ...

As far as I'm concerned, ...

Personally, ...

While I understand ... , I (do not) believe ...

For example, ...

Firstly, ...

Furthermore, ...

Finally, ...

In conclusion, ...

In short, ...

1. Here is an opinion essay based on the writing tips and techniques previously presented. Read it and label the paragraphs with these headings:

Summary and writer's opinion  
Viewpoint 2 and reasons  
Introduction and opinion  
Viewpoint 1 and reason

## Will life be better in the future?

Can you imagine doing your shopping without having to leave the house or working at home rather than going to the office? In my opinion, life in the future will be much more pleasant than it is today. ¶ 1

To start with, there will be many improvements in the field of medicine. Scientists are confident that cures for diseases such as cancer and AIDS will have been found. Therefore, the lives of thousands of people will be saved. ¶ 2

In addition to this, new technological breakthroughs will make our lives easier. Computers will be able to perform more time- saving functions, transport will be faster and more efficient and new inventions will continue to help us carry out daily tasks with ease and comfort. ¶ 3

All in all, I feel that life in the future will definitely be better. We are all searching for ways to improve our lives and we can only look ahead in order to do this. ¶ 4

## MODEL

### PLAN

#### Opening

States the topic and the writer's opinion.

#### Body

Supports the writer's opinion with reasons, facts and examples; each idea is developed in a new paragraph.

#### Closing

Summarises and restates the writer's opinion.

### Raising the School-leaving Age

In the near future, the government will be making it compulsory for students to stay at school until they are 18. During this period, students will either continue their academic studies or do vocational training courses. In my view, carrying out this plan would be a terrible mistake.

First of all, schools will not be able to offer suitable vocational training for all the students who will be forced to remain in school. Moreover, the extra time in school is not likely to give these young people a better chance of finding a job. Many employers do not value the vocational qualifications given by schools. They prefer to hire young people with work experience.

Finally, students who don't want to be in school can be very disruptive in the classroom, making it difficult for teaching or learning to take place. A study done by Colin Green, a lecturer at Lancaster University Management School, shows that when the school-leaving age was raised from 14 to 16, there was a 15-20% increase in the number of teacher absenteeism in secondary schools. This has a negative effect on the quality of education that the students receive.

In conclusion, it is clear that raising the school-leaving age to 18 will not be beneficial to the students, the level of education or the teachers. In view of this, I believe the school-leaving age should remain 16.