

A FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY

We write a for and against essay to discuss two sides of an issue. The task might present an opinion you should discuss, two opposing views, or it might ask you about the advantages or disadvantages of something. You need to introduce the subject, present a balanced debate of the two sides and finally explain your opinion.

MODEL TASK: 'Mobile phones should NOT be banned in school and universities.' How far do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

... is/are generally believed to be ...
 Many people claim / believe / argue that
 As a result, ... However, ...
 On the one hand, ... / On the other hand, ...
 There is no denying that ...
 It should not be forgotten that ...
 It could be argued that ...
 For example, ... / For instance, ...
 One reason for this is ...
 In conclusion, I personally agree that ...

Tips

- Analyse the question and brainstorm arguments for both sides of the issue.
- Note down some examples and decide which side you want to agree with.
- Present the issue in the introduction and use questions to present the debate.
- Organise the essay in a balanced way, so that each of the paragraphs in the main body presents one side of the argument.
- Make your opinion clear in the conclusion and give reasons.

YOUR TURN Write an essay supporting the ban on mobile phones in classes and explain why you are in favour of the ban.

Introduce the topic, outlining the issue by explaining a general belief or opinion.

Explain one side of the issue, giving examples to support.

Give your opinion saying which side of the issue you support and why.

Mobile phones are generally believed to be a distraction for students in class. As a result, they are banned in many schools and even some university classes. However, are such bans really necessary? Can we not learn to take advantage of these powerful devices to improve learning?

On the one hand, there are good reasons for banning mobile phones from classes. There can be no doubt that they are distracting. For example, we receive alerts for messages or posts on social media and it's extremely difficult, but not impossible, to concentrate on what the teacher is saying while we are using our phone.

On the other hand, there is no denying that mobile phones can be valuable tools, like a small computer in our hands. In this day and age, it should be possible to use these devices to enhance the learning experience and to motivate students to learn. It could be argued that they might be used to improve communication as well as to search for and save important information for students.

In conclusion, I personally agree that schools and universities should not prohibit the use of mobile phones in class, as long as they are used to support the learning experience. All things considered, they can be effective tools that can benefit both students and teachers.

Give a contrasting point of view by asking a question.

Explain the other side of the issue, giving examples to support.