

AN OPINION ESSAY

We write opinion essays to express our views about a certain issue. It helps to mention other opinions and contrast them with yours to build a stronger argument. You must always justify your opinion, saying why you think that way and giving examples.

MODEL TASK: Do you think TV and other media are too obsessed with the private lives of celebrities? Justify your opinion.

Tips

- ▶ Decide which side of the debate you are on and think of points to defend your opinion.
- ▶ Mention other opinions to contrast with your own because this can make your arguments stronger.
- ▶ Try to give concrete examples to support your opinions.
- ▶ Make sure your opinion is obvious – use clear expressions to introduce your personal opinion.
- ▶ Summarise your opinion in the conclusion.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Nowadays ...
 People would have us believe that ...
 First of all, ... / Secondly, ...
 Some people claim that ...
 it's fair to say that ...
 For example, ...
 I believe ...
 In my view, ...
 In my opinion ...

YOUR TURN Think of the opposite point of view to the one in the model text and write an opinion essay stating it.

Introduce your essay using an example.

If you switch on the TV during the day, you're bound to find that at least one of the national TV channels is showing a programme discussing celebrities' lives. Many people think that TV and media dedicate too much time and space discussing the lives of famous actors, musicians and reality TV stars. In my opinion, however, these programmes are just harmless entertainment.

First of all, some people claim they hate gossip, but it's fair to say that most of us enjoy it. Since humans have lived together in communities, we have always used gossip to bond with other people and strengthen relationships. For example, talking to our neighbour about the family who live on the fifth floor helps to form a stronger connection to that neighbour.

Use clear expressions to make your opinion obvious.

Secondly, despite the criticism of how silly or tedious these TV programmes are, I believe they provide mostly harmless entertainment and the people who watch them know exactly what they are getting. Sometimes we need a bit of distraction from our work and studies, so finding out about how celebrities live can take our minds off the routine.

In my view, although it seems like the media is obsessed with celebrity gossip, for a lot of people, these types of programmes, magazines and webs are simply an escape and just a bit of fun.

Order your arguments clearly and mention opposing views.

The conclusion should summarise the opinions you gave above.