

- Opinion essays are formal in style. They require your opinion on a topic which must be clearly stated and supported by reasons. It is necessary to include the opposing viewpoint in another paragraph.

A successful opinion essay should have:

- a) an **introductory paragraph** in which you state the topic and your opinion;
- b) a **main body** which consists of two or more paragraphs. Each paragraph should present a separate viewpoint supported by your reasons. Another paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint and reasons may be included; and
- c) a **conclusion** in which you restate your opinion using different words.

## Points to consider

- First decide whether you agree or disagree with the subject of the topic and make a list of your points and reasons.
- Write well-developed paragraphs consisting of more than one sentence.
- Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.
- Linking words should be used throughout your composition.
- Use the techniques shown on p. 66 to begin and end your essay.

## Useful Language

**To express opinion:** I believe, In my opinion, I think, In my view, I strongly believe, The way I see it, It seems to me (that)

**To list points:** In the first place, first of all, to start with, Firstly, to begin with

**To add more points:** what is more, another major reason, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this, not to mention the fact that

**To introduce contrasting viewpoints:** It is argued that, People argue that, Opponents of this view say, There are people who oppose, Contrary to what most people believe, As opposed to the above ideas

**To introduce examples:** for example, for instance, such as, in particular, especially

**To conclude:** To sum up, All in all, All things considered, Taking everything into account

## Introduction

### Paragraph 1

*state the topic and your opinion clearly*

### Main Body

### Paragraph 2

*viewpoint 1 and reason*

### Paragraph 3 \*

*viewpoint 2 and reason*

### Paragraph 4

*give the opposing viewpoint and reasons*

## Conclusion

### Final Paragraph

*restate your opinion, using different words*

\* *you may include more viewpoints, and therefore more paragraphs in the main body*

## Techniques for beginnings and endings

**The first paragraph may:**

- make reference to a strange scene or situation, e.g. *Some scientists believe that in the future everyone will be genetically perfect.*
- address the reader directly, e.g. *Are you aware of any characteristics which you may have inherited from your parents?* or ask a rhetorical question (question to which no answer is expected), e.g. *Isn't it amazing how some children look so much like their parents?*
- start with a quotation, e.g. *"Genetics holds the key to the future"*

**The last paragraph may:**

- state a personal opinion, e.g. *In my opinion, I believe, In my view, It seems to me, The way I see it, I think, etc.*
- give the reader something to consider, e.g. *Perhaps the world would be a safer and more efficient place if everyone was genetically perfect.*
- end with a quotation, e.g. *"Genetics holds the key to the future"*, or a rhetorical question, e.g. *What will they think of next?*