

# Argumentative composition

## Cómo escribir un ensayo argumentativo

### (essay)

#### Tips

- 1 En este tipo de composición se trata de exponer argumentos a favor o en contra de una idea u opinión, intentar resolver un problema, sugerir soluciones alternativas a un problema o presentar dos posturas de un tema controvertido. Sea cual sea la tarea asignada, **lee atentamente el enunciado y asegúrate de que entiendes bien lo que se pide.**
- 2 Antes de planificar tu texto, **decide qué punto de vista vas a defender. Piensa en las ideas que vas a expresar. Prepara el vocabulario específico que vas a utilizar y sinónimos.**
- 3 Planifica la redacción cuidadosamente atendiendo a una estructura que deberá tener:
  - a. **Introducción:** Un párrafo ( 3 oraciones) donde se explicará la situación, problema o un adelanto de la postura personal que se vaya a argumentar. **No empieces tu essay con fórmulas de tipo *I'm going to write about this or that topic.*** Pincha aquí para ver cómo escribir una introducción.
  - b. **Desarrollo:** Dos o tres párrafos ( de 5 a 7 oraciones en cada uno). Se expondrán los argumentos a favor o en contra que refuercen tu postura, añadiendo ejemplos. **Aquí, aquí y aquí** encontrarás consejos sobre cómo desarrollar ideas y cómo conectarlas con eficacia.
  - c. **Conclusión:** Un párrafo (dos o tres oraciones) servirá para resumir tu opinión, ideas principales previamente desarrolladas, interpretación de los hechos o expresar qué ocurrirá en el futuro si la situación abordada persiste o cambia. Nunca añadas una nueva información en este apartado porque se te haya ocurrido al final. Aunque en la conclusión se resumen ideas, **NO repetir vocabulario ya utilizado antes, utiliza sinónimos.** La repetición es penalizada por los examinadores, ya que demuestra un limitado vocabulario. Lee estos otros consejos y algunos ejemplos de conclusión.
- > **Haz un esquema-borrador con las ideas que incluirás en cada una de las tres partes. Finalmente, empieza a redactar sin olvidar utilizar conectores para introducir ideas o argumentos.**
- 4 Aunque se exprese una opinión personal, evita el abuso de “I” en la medida de lo posible.
- 5 Éste es probablemente el tipo de texto más difícil de elaborar, por eso es necesario estudiar bien el tema y reflexionar previamente para presentar las ideas y argumentos de una forma lógica y coherente.

En este enlace encontrarás más consejos prácticos para escribir *argument essays* además de numerosos ejemplos sobre diversidad de temas.

## **Cause and Effect: Traffic (1)**

Although Abu Dhabi is one of the most modern cities in the world, it is facing a problem of traffic congestion. Many residents spend hours stuck in traffic in the city every day. **This is a complex problem with many serious effects.**

There are many reasons why we suffer traffic jams every day. **One of these** is the rapid growth of the population. **As a result of this**, the number of cars is increasing annually. **A further point is that** there are more women drivers and younger drivers today than in the past. The increase in the number of trucks and commercial vehicles **also causes** traffic congestion. These vehicles move very slowly, sometimes stopping to unload goods, and blocking traffic. Road works are **another major problem** that can lead to streets being very crowded.

Traffic congestion has many effects. **One of the most important is** parking problems. People find it difficult to park their cars especially in the city center. Long delays in getting to and from work are **another result**, leading to less productivity from employees. There **are also more** accidents, because people become frustrated or angry due to the traffic jams. **Pollution in the city center worsens** as a result of car emissions, and the city **becomes** a less attractive place to live. Shops **are forced** to close in the city center and **have to relocate** to malls or to the outskirts of the city, where parking is available.

In conclusion, although Abu Dhabi has good roads and modern infrastructure, it is suffering from traffic problems. There is no simple solution to this problem because it has many causes, but the effects are damaging both the city and the people who live there.

## **Essay: Telecommuting**

This is a cause and effect essay on telecommuting

Telecommuting will have major effects in the worlds of work and family life . However, its biggest effect will be in the area of individual freedom, responsibility, and time management.

Work and workplaces will alter dramatically. Offices may become smaller, as fewer desks are needed. There will be greater need for high-bandwidth connections to link the office and the home, and even homes to other homes, as other employees and supervisors also begin working at home. Hours spent commuting, traffic jams, and fights for parking should diminish, as workers make fewer journeys or work staggered hours.

Family life will also change. Workers, both husbands and wives, can arrange their work around family commitments such as taking children to school, cooking, leisure activities, etc. However, households will also have to set aside areas for work – particularly if both spouses are telecommuting.

However, although the ideas of more time at home and less time traveling are attractive, there are some drawbacks to telecommuting. People may feel unable to escape their work, and may even work longer or more unsocial hours. The quality of work may suffer because of the reduced face-to-face interaction with other employees. There may be delays if other workers are not immediately available. Telecommuters may feel isolated or unmotivated, or insecure about decisions. A major change will be in the way people think about work as a place or an institution. Instead, they will focus on the task or product. Workers may feel less loyal to a company and more inclined to change jobs or work part-time or on contract.

In conclusion, the effects are difficult to predict because they depend on the extent to which telecommuting becomes popular. However, telecommuting could be the start of a major societal shift, possibly as big as the Industrial Revolution which created our present ideas of work.

## **Essay: Early School Leavers (1)**

In the UAE, many students fail to complete their basic schooling. This can cause serious problems for the individual, their families and the country. In this essay, I will examine the reasons why students leave school early, and suggest some possible solutions

There are many reasons why students leave school early. Family problems are one cause. If parents are divorced, no-one may be taking responsibility for the child. If parents are uneducated, there may be little encouragement to do homework or to stay in school. Financial factors are also important. Some students want to work in order to support their families. In contrast, others may have family businesses and not see any benefit in obtaining a high school certificate. Perhaps the main reason why students drop out is for academic reasons. For many students, school is stifling and boring. The curriculum does not challenge them or grab their attention and they are unable to be creative. Others have learning difficulties that need specialist help.

The problem of school drop-out can be reduced by using several strategies. First, educational authorities have to work closely with parents to monitor attendance. They need to follow up and determine the reasons for a student's absence. In some countries, parents are fined if the children are not attending. Schools also need social workers who can respond to family problems. A second approach is to implement changes in the curriculum so that school is more interesting for students at risk of dropping out. This could mean new methods of teaching or new subjects and facilities in the school. Thirdly, some financial help could be made available in a country like the UAE to encourage students with financial problems to stay in school.

As can be seen, there is no one solution to the problem of school drop-outs. Educational authorities, parents and schools need to work closely together to find the reason for each student's decision to leave school, and to try to do as much as possible to encourage them to stay in the system.

## **Essay: Early school-leavers (2)**

Today, although most students in the UAE complete school, a large number still drop out because of family, social and work pressures. This problem requires serious action from both individuals and the government.

Most students who do not complete school do so because of family problems. Girls, especially, want to get married and start a family. Some parents are not interested in education and do not support their children in studying. Social problems are also a contributing factor. Education is compulsory but, despite this, some people do not take it seriously. Furthermore, jobs are available even if students do not have a good education. The third reason is work pressure. Some families are poor and need their children to work in order to increase the income. All these problems will create young people who do not have any skills and who will not be able to improve their lives for the family and the country.

There are several things that can be done about these problems. Parents should be encouraged to send their children to school. Schools with baby-minding facilities should be opened specially for married students. The government needs to stress the importance of education and even offer financial support to students to continue. This will encourage students to stay at school rather than start working.

In conclusion, there are several things that the government can do to allow more people to finish school. However, a number of society attitudes also have to change if the country's young people are to achieve their full potential.

## Security Cameras and Privacy

*In the fight against crime, police forces and governments are increasingly using security cameras in public places. Some people are opposed to this, saying that it invades our privacy. What do you think?*

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*The individual has a right to privacy!*  
Security cameras have become ubiquitous in many countries. Whereas before they appeared only in banks and at high-security areas, they are now entering public places such as malls, streets, stadiums and transport. Many people feel this affects their privacy. This essay will examine whether the advantages of these cameras outweigh their negative impact.

Surveillance cameras have several benefits. An obvious benefit is that the police can catch criminals in the act, thus reducing crime. This will make the streets safer for ordinary people. A more important point is that criminals, particularly young offenders or petty criminals will be deterred. They will not be tempted to carry out crimes, and thus society will be a lot safer. Cameras are also cost-effective and unobtrusive. Authorities do not need to spend large amounts of money on police.

However, security cameras are far from being a perfect solution. The biggest objection concerns privacy. Many people feel that they should be free to travel or move around a shop, mall, street or country without being photographed or recorded. They feel that being watched constantly is like being in a jail, and that ordinary people are losing their freedom because of these devices. Another point is that although the police say that only criminals have something to fear from the cameras, many people do not trust governments with too much information. Corrupt authorities could use information in the wrong way or twist it to victimize some groups. Thirdly, cameras and computers can make mistakes.

In conclusion, although there are definite advantages to using surveillance devices such as cameras, we need to balance the need for security with respect for the individual's privacy and freedom. If we do not trust the members of society, a situation like George Orwell's "1984" could be the result.

## **When Should People Retire?**

*When should people be made to retire? 55? 65? Should there be a compulsory retirement age?*

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Many old people work well into their 70s and 80s, running families, countries or corporations. Other people, however, despite being fit and highly talented, are forced to retire in their 50s or even earlier because of company or national regulations. This essay will examine whether people should be allowed to continue working for as long as they want or whether they should be encouraged to retire at a particular stage.

There are several arguments for allowing older people to continue working as long as they are able. First of all, older employees have an immense amount of knowledge and experience which can be lost to a business or organization if they are made to retire. A second point is that older employees are often extremely loyal employees and are more willing to implement company policies than younger less committed staff. However, a more important point is regarding the attitudes in society to old people. To force someone to resign or retire at 60 or 65 indicates that the society does not value the input of these people and that effectively their useful life is over.

Allowing older people to work indefinitely however is not always a good policy. Age alone is no guarantee of ability. Many younger employees have more experience or skills than older staff, who may have been stuck in one area or unit for most of their working lives. Having compulsory retirement allows new ideas in an organization. In addition, without age limits, however arbitrary, many people would continue to work purely because they did not have any other plans or roles. A third point of view is that older people should be rewarded by society for their life's labor by being given generous pensions and the freedom to enjoy their leisure.

With many young people unemployed or frustrated in low-level positions, there are often calls to compulsorily retire older workers. However, this can affect the older individual's freedom – and right – to work and can deprive society of valuable experience and insights. I feel that giving workers more flexibility and choice over their retirement age will benefit society and the individual.