

**For and against Essays**

**Study sheet**

**Grade: 8 National**

A **"for and against" essay is a formal piece of writing in which a topic is considered from opposing points of view**. You should present both sides in a fair way by discussing them objectively and in equal detail. A good essay of this type should consist of:

a) an introductory paragraph in which you clearly state the topic to be discussed, without giving your opinion;  
b) a main body in which the points for and against along with your justifications, examples or reasons are presented in separate paragraphs; and  
c) a closing paragraph in which you state your opinion or give a balanced consideration of the topic.

**Note**: Opinion words (I think, I believe, In my opinion, etc.) can only be used in the closing paragraph where you give your opinion on the topic.

**Points to consider**

• Before you start writing your essay you should make a list of the points for and against.  
• Each paragraph should start with a topic sentence which summarises the topic of the paragraph.  
e.g. In addition, many people feel reading is a relaxing and worthwhile activity.  
• Do not use informal style (e.g. short forms, [colloquial language](http://academicwriting.wikidot.com/colloquial-language), etc.) or strong language to express your opinion (e.g. I know…, etc.). Express your opinion in a non-emotional way (e.g. It seems that I therefore feel, etc.).  
• Well-known quotations relevant to the topic you are writing about will make your composition more interesting. For example, if you are writing an essay on education, a quotation you may include is: "Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." (Will Durant)  
Note: Although these are "balanced" arguments, if you feel that either the for or against side is stronger and should be supported, this side should be presented in paragraphs 4 & 5, thus leading the reader to your conclusion.

**Introduction**  
Paragraph 1  
state topic (summary of the topic without giving your opinion)  
**Main Body**  
Paragraphs 2 & 3  
arguments for & justifications, examples, and/ or reasons  
Paragraphs 4 & 5  
arguments against & justification, examples, and/or reasons  
**Conclusion**  
Final Paragraph  
balanced consideration/ your opinion directly or indirectly

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases**  
• To list points:  
**Firstly, First of all, In the first place, To begin/start with, Secondly, Thirdly, Finally**  
• To list advantages:  
**One/Another/A further/An additional (major) advantage of… is … The main/greatest/first advantage of… is …**  
• To list disadvantages:  
**One/Another/ A further/An additional (major) disadvantage/drawback of. The main/greatest/most serious/first disadvantage /drawback of… Another negative aspect of…**  
• To introduce points/arguments for or against:  
One (very convincing) point/argument in favour of… / against, A further common criticism of… / It could be argued that…..  
often claimed/suggested  
It is widely argued maintained that…..  
generally felt/believed/held

Some/many/most people/experts/scientist/sceptics/critics  
claim/suggest/argue/feel that…  
maintain/believe/point out/agree/hold that…  
advocate (+ing/noun)/support the view that…  
oppose the view that…  
are in favour of/against…  
are of the opinion that/convinced that…  
are opposed to…

• **To add more points to the same topic:**  
in addition (to this), furthermore, moreover, besides, apart from, what is more, as well as, not to mention (the fact) that, also, not only … but also/as well, both … and, There is another side to the issue/question/argument of…  
• **To make contrasting points:**  
on the other hand, however, still, yet, but, nonetheless, nevertheless, even so,  
it may be said/argued/claimed that,…  
others/many people oppose this viewpoint/strongly disagree…, claim/feel/believe this argument is incorrect/misguided  
although, though, even though, while, whilst, whereas, despite/in spite of (the fact that), regardless of the fact that  
Opponents of … argue/believe/claim that…  
The fact that… contradicts the belief/idea that…  
While it is true to say that…, in fact…  
While/Although …, it cannot be denied that…

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases**  
**• To introduce examples:**  
for example, for instance, such as, like, in particular, particularly, especially, This is (clearly) illustrated/shown by the fact that… One/A clear/striking/ typical example of (this)… The fact that…. shows/illustrates that…  
**• To emphasise a point:**clearly, obviously, it is obvious, naturally, of course, needless to say, indeed  
**• To express reality:**  
In fact, the fact (of the matter) is, actually, in practice, it is a fact that, in effect  
**• To make general statements:**  
as a (general) rule, generally, in general, on the whole, by and large, in most cases  
**• To make partially correct statements:**  
to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, in a way/sense, this is partly true (but), to a limited extent, there is some truth in (this), in some cases, up to a point  
**• To explain/clarify a point:**  
in other words, that is to say, this/which means that  
**• To express cause**: owing to, due to (the fact that), on account of, on the grounds that, given that, because, as, since  
**• To express effect:** therefore, thus, as a result/consequence, consequently, so, for this reason, if… were to happen, … the effect/result would be…  
**• To express intention**: to, so as to, in order to, so that, with the intention of (+ing)

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases: Conclusion expressing balanced considerations/opinion indirectly**  
In conclusion,  
On balance,  
All things considered,  
Taking everything into account/consideration,  
To conclude,  
To sum up,  
All in all,  
Finally/Lastly,

……………………. it can be said/claimed that …  
……………………. it seems/appears that…  
……………………. it would seem that…  
……………………. it is likely/unlikely/possible/foreseeable that …  
……………………. it is clear/obvious that…  
…………………….. there is no/little doubt that …  
…………………….. it is true to say that …  
…………………….. although it must be said that …  
……………………. it may be concluded/said that …

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases: Conclusion expressing opinion directly**  
In conclusion,  
On balance,  
All things considered,  
Taking everything into account/consideration,  
To conclude,  
To sum up,  
All in all,

…………………………… it is my belief/opinion that …  
………………………….. I (firmly) believe/feel/think that …  
…………………………… I am convinced that …  
…………………………… I am inclined to believe that …  
…………………………… I (do not) agree that/with …

**NOTE**

1. **A for and against essay** can end in a **balanced consideration** in which you restate that there are points **for** and **against** the topic using appropriate expressions given above.
2. Alternatively, it can end by expressing an **opinion**, in which case you state, directly or indirectly, that you are either in favour of **or** against the topic, using appropriate expressions given above.



**Argumentative Essay Example**

**Modern Technology**

Today, technology is very important because it is used for almost everything and like everything, technology has advantages and disadvantages. The invention of the computer was a very important point. Communication is thus enhanced, and companies can communicate more easily with foreign countries. Research is also simplified. In the world today, people cannot live without technologies such as televisions, mobile phones, computers and others. These technologies have slowly taken an essential part in people’s day-to-day lives and being without them would be unimaginable for some of us. To understand technology, one must know what it provides in terms of advantages, but also disadvantages.

First, the evolution of technology is beneficial to humans for several reasons. At the medical level, technology can help treat more sick people and consequently save many lives and combat very harmful viruses and bacteria.

The invention of the computer was a very important point. Communication is thus enhanced, and companies can communicate more easily with foreign countries. Research is also simplified.

For companies, progress in implementing [strategic technology trends](https://www.information-age.com/strategic-technology-trends-123475549/) is helping them save time and therefore, money. Exchanges are faster especially with the internet. Sales and purchases are now facilitated and possible worldwide. This allows businesses to buy raw materials with discounts or at reduced prices. Similarly, global tourism has grown.

Technology has also increased the productivity of almost every industry in the world. Thanks to technology, we can even pay with bitcoins instead of using banks. The digital coin has been such a game changing factor, that many realised that this is the right time to open a [bitcoin demo account](http://www.avatrade.co.uk/forex/cryptocurrencies/bitcoin).

When observed more closely, new things are discovered every day. Let’s take for instance when radio waves were discovered, radio broadcasts followed suit almost immediately. The same applies to the television and electricity. If no one had discovered that electricity could be generated, then the entertainment industry wouldn’t be at its current stage of development.

Technology improves daily lives; allowing to move physical [storage units](https://usselfstorage.com/self-storage/blog/budgeting-for-your-relocation-move) to virtual storage banks and more. Scientists of the time are also able to send astronauts to the moon thanks to technology.

In the [modern industrial world](https://www.forbes.com/sites/unify/2013/12/10/how-technology-has-changed-workplace-communication/#71ede02b670b), machines carry out most of the agricultural and industrial work and as a result, workers produce much more goods than a century ago and work less. They have more time to exercise and work in safer environments.

On the other hand, the evolution of modern technology has disadvantages, for example, dependence on new technology. Man no longer needs to think. Even if the calculator is a good invention, man no longer makes mental calculation and no longer works his memory. The decline of human capital implies an increase in unemployment. In some areas, devices can replace the human mind.

The use of technology certainly needs rule and new laws. For example, internet use is an individual freedom. However, the invention of the atomic bomb cannot be an individual freedom. In fact, regulations are difficult to implement when these technologies are introduced – such as regulation surrounding the impending arrival of autonomous vehicles.

Finally, as most technological discoveries aim to reduce human effort, it would imply that more work is done by machines. This equates to less work for people: the human is becoming ever so obsolete by the day, as processes become automated and jobs are made redundant.