



Two-sided Argumentative Essays

Contents:

General arguments (no sources)

1. Should parents educate their children at home? [440 words] *****[A2/B1]
2. Is advertising a benefit for society? (550 words) *****[B1/B2]
3. Is a UK university degree worth the money? [633 words] *****[B1/B2]
4. Guns should be banned. (700 words) *****[B1/B2]
5. Can wind energy replace electricity power stations? (720 words) *****[B1/B2]

Levels: ***** A2 *****[B1/B2] *****[B2/C1] ***** C1 ***** C2

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Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: Education

Argument: *'Should parents educate their children at home?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[C2/B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Should parents educate their children at home?'*
- Write down 'the positives and negatives'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise 2]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

1. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Should parents educate their children at home?

C. Wilson (2016)

Key vocabulary

1. Home tuition
2. 'To find it difficult to fit in' [phrase]
3. To be gifted
4. To realise your potential
5. To opt out of something
6. A harmful influence
7. Truancy
8. Adolescents
9. To be led astray
10. Peers
11. Isolated
12. To socialise
13. Drama (the subject)
14. Laboratories
15. Expertise
16. English literature
17. Disciplined
18. Preferable
19. Protection
20. A Severely disabled child

Should parents educate their children at home?

C. Wilson (2016)

In Britain parents are now choosing to educate their children at home. This is often because some children find it difficult to fit into the school system because they are especially gifted or have problems of some kind. However, despite the various arguments that have been put forward for home tutoring, this essay will argue that it is better for a child to be educated at school.

Teaching children at home has a number of advantages. Firstly, parents feel that their children will be able to realise their potential better if they can work at their own rate and concentrate on specific subjects. For example, there have been cases of children who have gone to university as young as twelve or thirteen because they are especially gifted and have opted out of the school system. Parents feel that they will also be able to protect their children from harmful influences they may encounter at school if they keep them at home. Problems such as truancy and drugs are common and adolescents particularly can be led astray by their peers. Thus, school can prevent learning to take place effectively.

However, there are also arguments in support of sending children to school rather than educating them at home. First of all, children are isolated at home; at school, on the other hand, they are able to socialise and meet people of different ages and so become increasingly independent. Children also need their peers to do subjects like sports and drama. Another important point is that schools have more resources and equipment than can be provided at home. Such as libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments. A final argument is school can offer a much wider range of subjects and expertise than parents can provide on their own. Parents would need to have a whole range of professional knowledge in science subjects like physics and chemistry to English literature and economics. It is also questionable whether parents could keep a disciplined study atmosphere at home because of the friendly family atmosphere. In sum, home tuition can affect social independence, fail to provide the correct resources and professional teaching.

On balance it seems that education at school is preferable to learning at home. It is fair to assume that home education aids concentration and protection, it also limits socialising, availability of resources and professional teaching. There may be particular cases in which home tutoring would be advantageous, such as for severely disabled children; however, for the vast majority of children there are greater benefits from going to school.

[440 words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Yes - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

No - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Introduction	
General	Parents educate children at home
Specific	Some children find it difficult to fit in school system
Thesis	Better to be educated at school
Outline	Look at the arguments for and against

YES
<u>1. Better potential</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at own rate • Concentrate on specific subjects • Example: University at 12 or 13 years old (gifted home educated students)
<u>2. Protection</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful influences • Truancy and drugs

No
<u>1. isolation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socialisation / meet people = independence • peers for sport
<u>2. Resources & equipment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools have libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments.
<u>3. Expertise</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent's professional knowledge (don't know all subjects) • control the studying atmosphere (too many distraction at home)

Conclusion	
Summary:	Home education = concentration and protection, Schools = socialising, resources, professional teaching
Thesis	Greater benefits from going to school
Recommendation	Severely disabled children = home education

Outline #3

Read the essay on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

Introduction	
General:	
Specific:	
Outline:	
Thesis:	

Yes – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

No – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1 _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation:	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	Parents educate children at home
Specific	Some children find it difficult to fit in school system
Thesis	Better to be educated at school
Outline	Look at the arguments for and against

YES
<u>1. Better potential</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at own rate • Concentrate on specific subjects • Example: University at 12 or 13
<u>2. Protection</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful influences • truancy and drugs

No
<u>1. isolation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialisation / meet people = independence • Peers for sport
<u>2. Resources & equipment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments.
<u>3. Expertise</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent's professional knowledge • Control the studying atmosphere

Conclusion	
Summary:	It is fair to assume that home education aids concentration and protection, it also limits socialising, availability of resources and professional teaching.
Thesis	The vast majority of children there are greater benefits from going to school
Recommendation	Home education is advantageous, such as for severely disabled children

Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: Advertising

Argument: *'Is advertising a benefit for society?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Is advertising a benefit for society?'*
- Write down 'the positives and negatives of advertising'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise 2]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

2. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Is advertising a benefit for society?

C. Wilson (2016)

Key vocabulary

1. Persuasive
2. To be exposed to...
3. Billboards
4. A colleague
5. Individualism
6. Materialistic
7. Essential
8. Consumerism
9. Beneficial
10. Dissatisfied
11. Frustration
12. Inadequacy
13. Well-off
14. Prosperity

Is advertising a benefit for society?

C. Wilson (2016)

Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. We are all exposed to many different forms of advertising on a daily basis. Whether this is on billboards on the way to work, pop up ads on the Internet, or friends or colleagues sporting the next 'must have'. It has been argued that this is an intrusion in our daily life, and the pressure on us to spend money to keep up with everyone else is stressful. Others, however, enjoy the variety, which this highly creative industry brings to everyday life and our own individualism. This essay will discuss the positives and negatives and argue that the current process of advertising is highly negative as it creates a materialistic society.

Many of the main arguments for advertising is that it generates wealth for a country and therefore this improves the economy. This can be divided into three areas; Firstly: Taxes. These are paid on goods sold, help governments to pay for essential services such as education and health care. Moreover, the number of jobs created for producing, marketing and servicing these goods helps to reduce the unemployment problem, which is the second area of importance. The third point is that advertising raises money for a huge number of sporting events and artistic performances, which would otherwise not be held. Without sponsorship from companies who advertise their products, these events would disappear due to lack of funding. In other words, although consumerism is promoted through advertising, it is beneficial to both the consumer and society.

On the other hand, the main arguments against advertisements can also be divided into three main areas. Firstly, advertising can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have, and make them want more. Being exposed again and again to products which one cannot afford produces frustration and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, the second area is cost. Not all parents are in a position to afford the goods which their children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy, especially among the less well-off. In addition to this, and the final issue is that advertising creates materialism and causes people to place too much importance on material goods. The fact that people are prepared to work long hours, or even turn to crime in order to gain the goods on offer, shows that advertising persuades people to go to great lengths to keep the same standard of living as those they see around them. Thus, it could be argued that neither crime nor the stress caused by overworking can benefit society.

In conclusion, it is true to say that advertising provides a range of benefits for economic prosperity. However, the drawbacks of creating a materialistic focused society based around competition and stress, far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, advertising does not benefit the majority of people in society. Societies need to ask the question what is important for happiness and whether material products offer this. A famous American industrialist Harper (1980) summarises advertising as only being 'found in societies which have passed the point of satisfying basic needs'.

[550 words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: Is advertising a benefit for society?

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Yes - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

No - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Is advertising a benefit for society?'

Introduction	
General	Advertising = different forms Billboards/pop up ads/friends
Specific	Pressure / stressful to keep up However, variety / individualism.
Outline	This essay will discuss the positives and negatives of advertising
Thesis	Advertising = negative = materialistic society

NO
1. Taxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments Education & health care.
2. Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs in advertising Reduces unemployment
3. Sponsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporting events and artistic performances. No sponsorship = no companies /events

Yes
1. Dissatisfaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Want more / the next newest one
2. Cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot afford Feelings of inadequacy
3. Materialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too focused on material goods Work longer hours Crime

Conclusion	
Summary	Benefits = economic prosperity. However, the drawbacks = materialistic focused society / competition /stress
Thesis	Therefore, advertising does not benefit the majority of people in society.
Recommendation	Question what is important for happiness?

Outline #3

Read the essay on: *Is advertising a benefit for society?* Fill in the outline (basic notes only)

Introduction	
General:	
Specific:	
Outline:	
Thesis:	

Yes – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

No – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation:	
Quotation:	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium / different forms of advertising on a daily basis. Billboards/pop up ads on the Internet, or friends or colleagues sporting the next 'must have'.
Specific	An intrusion in our daily life, pressure to keep up with everyone / stressful. However, variety, creative industry brings / own individualism.
Outline	This essay will discuss the positives and negatives of advertising
Thesis	Argue that the current process of advertising is highly negative as it creates a materialistic society

NO
<u>1.Taxes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments to pay for essential services Such as education and health care.
<u>2.Employment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs created for producing, marketing and servicing reduce the unemployment problem
<u>3.Sponsorship</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises money for a huge number of sporting events and artistic performances. No sponsorship from companies / events would disappear / no funding funding.

Yes
<u>1.Dissatification</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsatisfied already have, and want more.
<u>2.Cost</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents cannot afford goods which children see advertised and want. Leads to feelings of inadequacy
<u>3.Materialism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much importance on material goods. Work longer hours Turn to crime Persuades people to go to great lengths for same standard of living as those around them.

Conclusion	
Summary:	Advertising provides a range of benefits for economic prosperity. However, the drawbacks of creating a materialistic focused society based around competition and stress, possibly far outweigh the advantages.
Thesis	Therefore, advertising does not benefit the majority of people in society.
Recommendation	Societies may need to ask the question what is important for happiness and whether material products offer this.
Quote	Harper (1980) summarises advertising as only being 'found in societies which have passed the point of satisfying basic needs'.

Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: University degree costs

Argument: *'Is a university degree worth the cost?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Is a university degree worth the cost?'*
- Write down the reasons for 'yes' and 'no'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

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2. Reading

3. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Is a UK university degree worth the money?

C. Wilson (2017)

Key vocabulary

1. Incredibly popular
2. College^{AmE} / University^{BrE}
3. An integral part of something
4. Necessity
5. Trebled
6. A Bachelor's Degree
7. A graduate
8. Expertise
9. A career
10. A profession
11. Networking
12. Critical thinking skills (analyse & evaluate)
13. Innovation / innovative
14. Focused on profit
15. A production line (in a factory)
16. Individual attention
17. 'One size fits all' [a phrase]
18. Guarantees
19. A swamped job market
20. Vocation training
21. Student loans / student debt
22. Redundant educational investment
23. Merits
24. To open doors [idiom]
25. Ranking

Is a UK university degree worth the money?

C. Wilson (2017)

University education in the U.K has become incredibly popular for young people with on average one in every three college students going on to study at university. Such high numbers seem to suggest that a degree qualification has become a necessity in modern society and an integral part of developing a future career. There is also evidence that graduates earn more money than those who have not been through a university education system. Nevertheless, the average cost for three years of higher education has trebled in the last three years and with such high numbers of students this has had an effect on the quality of teaching. This essay will discuss the positives and negatives in the value of a degree and state that a university degree is worth the investment but only with integrated vocational training.

A university degree is worth the money for a number of important reasons. The most significant is a bachelor's degree is a high qualification. It presents employers with a highly educated and highly knowledgeable person in a specific area of expertise. For the graduate it offers an opportunity for a career rather than just a job. Of course, certain professions such as doctors, lawyers and teachers need this qualification to work in these areas. Secondly, is that most young people state that the university experience is one of the best times of their life. This divides into two main areas in that for many it is the first time away from home and the first steps to becoming independent but also the friendships, parties and networking are all enjoyable parts of university life. Finally, the university education testing system focuses on the development of critical thinking. These skills help graduates to be innovative and creative in the workplace by being able analyse and evaluate situations as they arise. In sum, university helps develop the key skills to benefit society and employers.

Many critics argue that university education is not worth the amount of money it costs. The first argument is that universities have become too focused on making profit rather than quality education. Some claim that universities now resemble production lines, similar to factories where creativity and innovation is not encouraged. High numbers of students also mean lecturers cannot provide individual attention to students thus teaching to a one size fits all model. The second argument is there is no guarantee of employment when you graduate. In fact, with record numbers of students graduating, the job market has become swamped and only one out of every five graduates have found work in their subject area. The biggest problem is that many graduates do not have any experience. This highlights the need for courses to include vocational training. Lastly, is the cost and student debt. For example, tuition cost of a three-year bachelor degree is £29,000 and with accommodation and living expenses the average debt of a graduate is £50,000 (as of 2016). Such an excessive debt at 21 years old is a significant burden to bear and if the graduate cannot find employment in their subject area quickly they have to take any job to start to pay back the debt. This can result in a redundant educational investment. Overall, a university course seems to be a gamble.

In conclusion, higher education has its merits through providing academic knowledge, educating a person to a high standard and offering experience. However, there is an element of uncertainty regarding teaching, finding work and going into debt. Having a degree is worth the initial investment because it opens more doors than other alternatives. There are a range of practical solutions for the negatives discussed in this essay by choosing a university through quality of teaching ranking, choosing courses with vocational training and working part-time while at university to reduce the debt.

[633 Words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: 'Is a university degree worth the cost?'

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Positives - write your ideas and support	
1) point / idea: Support	
2) point: Support	
3) point Support	

Negatives - write your ideas and support	
1) point: Support	
2) point: Support	
3) point: Support	

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis	
solutions	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Is a university degree worth the cost?'

Introduction	
General	University popular 1:3 college students
Specific	A degree = good career a& more money. Costs = trebled / high class numbers, /poor teaching.
Outline	Positives & negatives
Thesis	University degree is worth it but need work placement. / experience

Positives
1) High qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers want educated and knowledgeable person in a specific area of expertise. Graduate: a career than a job. Certain professions (doctors, lawyers and teachers) need qualifications
2) University 'life' experience (best times of their life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> independence Friendships, parties and networking = enjoyable parts of university life.
3) Critical thinking skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help innovation / creativity Able analyse and evaluate as situations arise. (important for work)

Negatives
1) Uni too focused on profit rather than quality education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like a factory or production line = prevents creativity and innovation. High numbers of students prevent individual attention
2) No guarantee of employment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:5 (in UK) graduates have professional work No experience. Degree courses need vocational training.
3) Cost and student debt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student loans +Tuition cost = £50,000. Excessive debt at 21 years old = take any job. A gamble.

Conclusion	
Summary:	Merits =academic knowledge, high standard education & life experience. Uncertainty = regarding teaching, finding work & debt.
Thesis	Yes, worth the money as a degree opens more doors than other alternatives
solutions	Choosing a university for quality of teaching ranking, courses with vocational training and working part-time.

Outline #3

Read the essay on: 'Is a university degree worth the cost?' Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Positives - find the main points and support	
1)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
2)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
3)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">

Negatives - find the main points and support	
1)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
2)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
3)	<div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis	
solutions	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	University is popular 1:3 college stds
Specific	A degree is necessary for a good career and more money. Costs have trebled, high class numbers, and poor teaching.
Outline	Positives & negatives
Thesis	University degree is worth it but need work placement.

Positives	
1) High qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers: educated and knowledgeable person in a specific area of expertise. Graduate: a career rather than just a job. certain professions (doctors, lawyers and teachers) need this qualification
2) University 'life' experience (best times of their life)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing independence Friendships, parties and networking are all enjoyable parts of university life.
3) Critical thinking skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help innovation and creativity in the workplace Able analyse and evaluate as situations arise.

Negatives	
1) Too focused on profit rather than quality education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production lines, similar to factories prevents creativity and innovation. High numbers of students prevent individual attention
2) No guarantee of employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One out of every five graduates have found work in their subject area. No experience. Degree courses need vocational training.
3) Cost and student debt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition cost = £50,000. Excessive debt at 21 years old forces graduate to take any job. Redundant investment. A gamble.

Conclusion	
Summary:	Merits =academic knowledge, high standard education & life experience. Uncertainty = regarding teaching, finding work & debt.
Thesis	Yes worth the money as a degree opens more doors than other alternatives
solutions	Choosing a university through quality of teaching ranking, courses with vocational training and working part-time.

Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: Should Guns be banned?

Argument: *'Should guns be banned?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Should guns be banned?'*
- Write down the reasons for 'yes' and 'no'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

4. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Guns should be banned

C. Wilson (2017)

Key vocabulary

1. Massacres
2. Terrorism
3. Mass shooting
4. Pro-gun control
5. U.S Constitution – 2nd Amendment (right to bear arms)
6. Out-dated / flawed
7. To carry a gun
8. Self-defence
9. Legislation
10. A fundamental right
11. National Rifle Association (NRA)
12. Policing
13. A severe prison sentence
14. Economic instability
15. To implement a policy
16. Ideology
17. A household
18. A dispute
19. Slavery
20. A fatality
21. To cite the main argument
22. Proponents
23. Tragedy
24. A venture

Guns should be banned

C. Wilson (2017)

With the rise of terrorism and recent gun massacres, it comes as no surprise that the debate surrounding banning guns in all countries has become topical. To focus on the U.S. for example, there have been more than 70 mass shootings in the last 30 years and pro-gun control advocates believe tougher gun laws would have prevented these crimes. As part of the U.S. Constitution, the second amendment gives the right to bear arms for self-defence and this legislation is now out-dated and flawed in the main premise of protecting oneself has created a significant rise in gun crime. This essay will discuss the arguments for and against banning guns in the U.S. and conclude that a gun ban will create a safer country.

In the U.S. approximately one in five people carry a gun. This suggests that citizens believe that it is necessary and an important part of everyday life. There are three main arguments against a gun ban. Firstly, it is a constitutional right of the second amendment. It is legislation of the U.S. Supreme Court that states self-defence is a fundamental right to bear arms for self-defence. This is a widely supported view throughout the U.S. who believe that carrying guns reduces crime and makes societies safer. The reduction in crime is the second reason, in that the U.S. National Rifle Association (NRA) claim that violent crime has fallen 48% and the murder rate has fallen 37% in the last 10 years. Whether this is based on the right to carry arms or changes in policing, education and more severe prison sentences, is debatable. A final reason is shooting and gun clubs are national sports and pastimes. Guns have become a fundamental part of life in the U.S, and any changes in gun laws would put many businesses into bankruptcy, creating higher unemployment and economic instability in some states. In sum, laws, reduction in crime and financial uncertainty from a ban are the many reasons against a ban.

There are three main convincing arguments that support an outright gun ban in the U.S. The most important point is to look at countries who have implemented policies against the rights for people to carry guns and notice that gun crime has been reduced by nearly 80%. For instance, Australia banned guns in 1998 after one of the biggest shootings in the country's history. Since that ban, crime connected to guns has fallen by 92%. With lengthy prison sentences and an inability to purchase guns this prevents guns falling in the wrong hands and as such prevents mass murder. The second point is that guns for self-defence is a seriously flawed ideology. The likelihood of being attacked is extremely rare and being able to have access to your gun in that event is also rare. In addition, statistics suggest that guns in houses are far more likely to be used on that household than in self-defence. In fact, gun related domestic violence and family disputes are significantly higher than other gun crime. A final point is that U.S. citizens often quote the second amendment as their constitutional right to carry guns. Basically stating that it is legislation and cannot be changed. However, it is an amendment, meaning that it can be amended, similar to how it was amended for slavery. To conclude, countries like Australia and the U.K. where guns have been banned show a significant fall in fatalities from shootings, also the easy accessibility of guns in the home has led to more domestic shootings and the second amendment can be clearly changed.

In conclusion, this essay has cited the main arguments for and against a gun ban. Proponents against a gun ban claim self-defence is a fundamental right, carrying guns reduces crime and a ban would create higher unemployment. Proponents of a gun ban argue that countries where guns are banned have much lower gun crime, the self-defence ideology is flawed and legislation can be easily changed. The evidence is perfectly clear that countries where guns are readily available lead to tragedy from domestic disputes to mass murders. Guns should be banned in the U.S. to follow other gun banned countries to create safer communities. A possible solution would be to implement the policy over a number of years so that gun related businesses can adapt and find their innovative ventures.

[700 words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: 'Should guns be banned?'

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

No - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

Yes - write your ideas and support	
1) Point / idea: support	
2) Point: support	
3) Point support	

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Should guns be banned?'

Introduction	
General	Terrorism / gun massacres / = debate - banning guns
Specific	U.S. = 70 mass shootings in 30 years = gun laws prevented these crimes. U.S. Constitution, the second amendment = right to bear arms for self-defence
Outline	This essay will discuss the arguments for and against banning guns in the U.S.
Thesis	Gun ban now out-dated & flawed = a gun ban = safer country.

NO
1. Constitution right of the second amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legislation / U.S. Supreme Court Self-defence is a fundamental right to bear arms for self-defence.
2. Reduces crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported view / reduces crime and makes societies safer. The U.S. National Rifle Association (NRA), violent crime <48% murder rate < 37% in 10 years. Questions?? Could be = policing education / prison sentences NOT Guns
3. Shooting is a national sport and past time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guns = life in the U.S. Changes = businesses = bankruptcy, Gun ban = unemployment / economic instability in some states.

Yes
1. Other countries have gun bans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gun crime = 80% reduced Australia gun ban 1998 = gun crime fallen 92%. Lengthy prison sentences and can't buy guns = prevents guns falling in the wrong hands and prevents mass murder.
2. Self-defence is a seriously flawed ideology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being attacked = rare and having access to gun in that event is also rare. Statistics = guns in houses are used on that household. Gun related domestic violence and family disputes / higher than other gun crime.
3. Legislation can be changed easily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People think second amendment / legislation cannot be changed. An amendment, meaning that it can be amended (like slavery).

Conclusion	
Summary:	Proponents = self-defence, guns reduce crime / a ban = higher unemployment. Proponents for = ex. countries lower gun crime / self-defence ideology = flawed / legislation easily changed.
Thesis	Guns = tragedy from domestic disputes to mass murders. Gun ban in US = follow gun banned countries = safer communities (evidence).
Solution	Policy over a number of years = related gun businesses can adapt = innovative ventures.

Outline #3

Read the essay on: 'Should guns be banned?' Fill in the outline (basic notes only)

Introduction	
General:	
Specific:	
Outline:	
Thesis:	

No – find the main points and support	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

Yes – find the main points and support	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Solution:	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	With the rise of terrorism gun massacres, debate surrounding banning guns in all countries as become topical.
Specific	U.S. for example, 70 mass shootings / 30 years tougher gun laws would have prevented these crimes. U.S. Constitution, the second amendment gives the right to bear arms for self-defence
Outline	This essay will discuss the arguments for and against banning guns in the U.S.
Thesis	Gun ban now out-dated and flawed in the main premise of protecting oneself / a gun ban will create a safer country.

NO
<u>1. Constitution right of the second amendment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislation / U.S. Supreme Court • Self-defence is a fundamental right to bear arms for self-defence.
<u>2. Reduces crime</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported view / reduces crime and makes societies safer. • The U.S. National Rifle Association (NRA), violent crime <48% murder rate < 37% in 10 years. • Questions?? Changes in policing, education and more severe prison sentences.
<u>3. Shooting is a national sport and past time</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guns have become a fundamental part of life in the U.S. • Changes put many businesses into bankruptcy, • Creating higher unemployment and economic instability in some states.

Yes
<u>1. Other countries have gun bans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun crime has been reduced by nearly 80%. • Australia banned guns in 1998 = gun crime fallen by 92%. • Lengthy prison sentences and an inability to purchase guns this prevents guns falling in the wrong hands and as such prevents mass murder.
<u>2. Self-defence is a seriously flawed ideology</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The likelihood of being attacked is extremely rare and being able to have access to your gun in that event is also rare. • Statistics guns in houses are used on that household. • Gun related domestic violence and family disputes / higher than other gun crime.
<u>3. Legislation can be changed easily</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second amendment / legislation cannot be changed. • An amendment, meaning that it can be amended (like slavery).

Conclusion	
Summary:	Proponents against = self-defence, guns reduce crime / a ban = higher unemployment. Proponents for = countries lower gun crime, the self-defence ideology is flawed and legislation can be easily changed.
Thesis	The evidence is clear / guns / lead to tragedy from domestic disputes to mass murders. Guns should be banned in the U.S. to follow other gun banned countries to create safer communities.
Solution	To implement the policy over a number of years so that gun related businesses can adapt and find their innovative ventures.

Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: wind energy

Argument: *'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?'*
- Write down the reasons for 'yes' and 'no'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

5. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Can wind energy replace electricity power stations?

C. Wilson (2017)

Key vocabulary

1. Sustainable / renewable energy
2. Coal fired power station / Nuclear powered station
3. Fossil fuel / coal / oil / gas
4. Solar / wind / hydro / biomass power
5. A wind turbine
6. A flaw
7. A substitute
8. To utilise
9. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)
10. CO2 emissions
11. Climate Change
12. Maintenance cost
13. Reliability
14. Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY)
15. A wind farm
16. 'to ruin the natural landscape'
17. A reliance on something
18. A greener society

Can wind energy replace electricity power stations?

C. Wilson (2017)

There has been much debate recently concerning the importance of sustainable energy and whether it can replace existing coal and nuclear fired power stations. Sustainable energy is defined as a source of energy that is renewable. It is infinite and will never run out unlike unsustainable sources such as the fossil fuels of coal, oil and gas and the mineral uranium used in nuclear power stations. The main sources of sustainable energy are solar, wind and hydro which are plentiful on the earth and innovative technology has been developed to harness these natural sources. This essay will investigate one of these sources; wind energy, which uses the wind turbine to produce electricity, and will discuss the main positives and negatives associated with this using wind. Overall, it will suggest that wind energy as a primary source of electricity has significant flaws to replace coal and nuclear power stations, but used with a variety of renewable sources could be an effective substitute.

There are many key advantages to utilising wind energy to produce electricity. The main advantage is that it is a renewable energy source, which is freely available all across the British Isles. In fact, the U.K. is highly dependent on importing fossil fuels from other countries for its energy needs and as a result is at the mercy of price fluctuations and international politics. The second most important point is that wind energy is non-polluting source of energy. Thus, when operational wind turbines produce no greenhouse gases or large amounts of CO₂ unlike the current power stations, which are responsible for 25% of the U.K.s CO₂ emissions. In addition, wind energy would help governments meet their targets in preventing climate change. The final key consideration is wind energy is cost effective. So although the initial set up costs are relatively high for the materials and construction of a wind turbine, once in place the maintenance costs are low and a turbine can run for 100 years, unlike coal or nuclear power stations which can only operate for approximately 35 years. Overall, wind energy has important economic and technological factors.

Unfortunately, wind energy has a number of significant flaws that need to be addressed to understand how this renewable source of electricity production could be implemented into a greener looking society. Firstly, is the subject of reliability. Although the UK is an island and has a considerable amount of wind, this wind is not always blowing. It is impossible to predict when the wind will blow, at what times and at what strength. As a consequence, this creates a serious in failing to meet peak demands usually in the mornings and evenings. This takes us to the second serious issue that there is no storage system for excess electricity produced. If a wind farm produces too much electricity, it cannot be stored so often wind turbines are turned off. At this present moment, there is no technological development in how this energy can be stored. There needs to be areas where giant sized batteries can be stored that can absorb additional energy. This applies to all renewable source electrical production. The difference with oil/coal fuelled power stations is that these industries can be turned on and off when energy is needed. The final problem is noise and visual pollution. The majority of people in the U.K. want renewable energy and more wind turbines but not near where they live. These people are called NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard). This is perfectly understandable as wind turbines are noisy as they rotate and big wind farms ruin

the natural landscape, making the countryside look mechanised. One solution is to put the wind turbines in the sea around the coasts of the U.K.

Overall, wind energy as a source for electricity production could be a future solution for the diminishing fossil fuels, a cleaner source of energy and reduced economic costs. However, there are serious limitations such as the reliability of wind, where to build wind farms and the inability to store electricity. It seems that a combination of sustainable sources of energy from wind, solar, hydro and biomass would help to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and be an effective substitute in electricity production. Overall, societies need to integrate renewable energy for a greener less polluting society.

[720 words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: 'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?'

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Yes - write your ideas and support

1) **Point / idea:**
support

2) **Point:**
support

3) **Point**
support

No - write your ideas and support

1) **Point / idea:**
support

2) **Point:**
support

3) **Point**
support

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?'

Introduction	
General	Debate = the importance of sustainable energy
Definition	Sustainable = source of energy that is renewable, infinite and will never run out
Specific	Main sources = solar, wind and hydro / plentiful earth / lots of innovative technology
Outline	This essay will investigate wind energy, and will discuss the main positives and negatives associated
Thesis	Wind energy as a primary source of electricity = significant flaws, but used with a variety of renewable sources could be an effective substitute.

Positives
1) Freely available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKs = dependent on importing fossil fuels Oil = price fluctuations & international politics.
2) Non-polluting source of energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No greenhouse gases or CO2 Current power stations = 25% of the UKs CO2 emissions. Wind energy = governments meet Climate Change targets.
3) Cost effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up costs are high for the materials and construction BUT Low maintenance costs / a turbine run for 100 years, Coal or nuclear power stations only operate for approx. 35 years

Negatives
1) Reliability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind is not always blowing. Impossible to predict when & strength of wind Not meet peak demands = mornings and evenings.
2) no storage system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be stored = wind turbines are turned off. No technological development in how this energy can be stored. (Giant batteries) Oil/coal fuelled power stations can be turned on and off when you need the energy
3) Noise and visual pollution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People want wind turbines but near where they live (NIMBYs). Wind turbines are noisy / big wind farms ruin the natural landscape. One solution = wind turbines in the sea around the coasts of the U.K.

Conclusion	
Summary:	Wind energy = diminishing fossil fuels, a cleaner, reduced economic costs. However, limitations = where to build & inability to store electricity.
Thesis	A combination of sustainable sources of energy from wind, solar, hydro and biomass help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and an effective substitute.
solutions	The main energy sources in a greener society.

Outline #3

Read the essay on: 'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?

Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

Introduction	
General	
Definition	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Yes - find the main points and support

1) _____
•
•

2) _____
•
•
•

3) _____
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•
•

No - find the main points and support

1) _____
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2) _____
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3) _____
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•
•

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Solutions:	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Can wind energy replace conventional electricity power stations?'

Introduction	
General	debate - the importance of sustainable energy
Definition	a source of energy that is renewable, infinite and will never run out
Specific	Main sources of sustainable energy are solar, wind and hydro. plentiful earth and lots of innovative technology
Outline	This essay will investigate wind energy, and will discuss the main positives and negatives associated
Thesis	Wind energy as a primary source of electricity has significant flaws, but used with a variety of renewable sources could be an effective substitute.

Positives
1) Freely available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.K. is highly dependent on importing fossil fuels Oil = price fluctuations & international politics.
2) Non-polluting source of energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No greenhouse gases or CO2 Current power stations, 25% of the U.K.s CO2 emissions. Wind energy would help governments meet targets in preventing climate change.
3) Cost effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initial set up costs are high for the materials and construction low maintenance costs and a turbine run for 100 years, coal or nuclear power stations only operate for approx 35 years

Negatives
1) Reliability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind is not always blowing. It is impossible to predict when & strength. Not meet peak demands in the mornings and evenings.
2) no storage system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be stored so often wind turbines are turned off. No technological development in how this energy can be stored. (Giant batteries) Oil/coal fuelled power stations can be turned on and off when you need the energy
3) Noise and visual pollution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People want wind turbines but don't want them near where they live. (NIMBYs). Wind turbines are noisy as they rotate and big wind farms ruin the natural landscape. One solution is to put the wind turbines in the sea around the coasts of the U.K.

Conclusion	
Summary:	Wind energy could be a future solution for the diminishing fossil fuels, a cleaner and reduced economic costs. However, limitations reliability of wind, where to build and the inability to store electricity.
Thesis	A combination of sustainable sources of energy from wind, solar, hydro and biomass help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and an effective substitute.
solutions	The main energy sources in a greener society.