UNIT 1

***Special Note:***

*The argumentative essay is a very useful test of a student’s ability to think logically****.***

**Argue: v. 1.** to **persuade** someone to do or not do something.

 **2.** to **give the reasons for your opinion, idea, belief**, etc.

**Argumentative: adj.** someone who is argumentative often argues or like arguing.

**Argument: n.**  a set of reasons that show that something is true or untrue, right or wrong etc.

 When you have an opinion and try to **convince your listener or reader to accept your opinion, you are agreeing with or disagreeing with something.** For example: In an everyday situation, you may try to **convince** a friend to go somewhere or in a composition or speech class, the instructor may make an assignment in which you must **support or oppose the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity**. If you **agree or disagree** on an issue, you will want your reader or listener to accept your point of view.

**There are a few types of argumentative compositions such as:**

1. ***Advantages and disadvantages***
2. *Expressing opinions/providing* ***solutions to problems***
3. *Expressing arguments* ***for and against*** *a topic*
4. *Compare and contrast something or somebody*

  **PURPOSE of ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS**

\* An argument follows when **two groups disagree** about something.

\* People can have different opinions and can offer reasons in support of their arguments. However, sometimes it **might be difficult to convince the other group** because the argument could be based on a matter of **preference, or religious faith.**

**\*** Therefore**, arguments of preference, belief or faith are NOT the type of arguments.** The kind of argument that can be argued logically is one based on an opinion that can be supported by **evidence** such as **facts**.

\* An argumentative essay is also one that attempts/tries to **change the reader’s mind**, **to convince the reader to agree with the point of view of the writer**.

\* For that reason, the argumentative essay attempts to be **highly persuasive and logical**. For example, a thesis such as “**My first experiences with Americans were shocking**” has a central idea ‘shocking’ but it is *not* really strongly persuasive, and it is certainly **not argumentative.**

\* When you write an argumentative essay, assume that the **reader disagrees** with you. But please remember that your reader ***is no less* intelligent than you**.

\* So, **write objectively, logically and respectfully**. Try to understand your opponent’s point of view. If you do not, you are not likely to convince the reader.

AS A RESULT:

* An important point to recall is that when writing to an argumentative essay, your reader **may not agree with** you.
* Writing to persuade is, therefore, more challenging and more imposing than many other types of writing.
* Your goal may be to change your readers' minds or move them to action.
* Your goal may be to sell a program, defend an idea, or disprove an opponent.
* In all these instances, you should consider writing to persuade as an important method for shaping your environment toward ***your*** vision of reality.

**Thesis Statement in Argumentative Essays**

* The argumentative thesis takes **a side of an issue**; frequently it proposes an approach of action which is often expressed with the modal ***should***).
* In the argument concerning the **nuclear power plant**, the thesis for a paper on this topic might be:

 “Governments **should ban further construction**of nuclear power plants.”

* Someone else might argue:

 “The U.S **should continue building**nuclear power plants.”

***PRACTICE 1: Thesis Statement***

Study the following thesis statements. Put “**A**” in the blank if the statement is **argumentative**. Be careful! A statement having “**should”** as part of the verb is not automatically argumentative.

1. \_\_The earthquake in Gölcük, Turkey, was one of the most destructive in history.
2. \_\_ Prospective\* parents should be required to get licenses in order to have children. (*Prospective*: future, expected
3. \_\_ The building codes in Las Vegas, Nevada, are inadequate\*. (I*nadequate:* not enough)
4. \_\_ Some of the Americans I have met are quite hospitable.
5. \_\_ Students should have a say in the hiring and firing of teachers.
6. \_\_ Pornographic books ought to be banned from the library.
7. \_\_ State University should not have a football team.
8. \_\_The citizens of this state should be allowed to carry guns.
9. \_\_ The United States ought to allow more immigrants into this country.

***PRACTICE 2:***  *Choose one opinion (a or b) from each of the following pairs of* ***thesis statements****.*

1. **a.** It is a good idea for students to work part time while they are going to school.

**b.** Students should not work while they are going o school.

1. **a.** Young people should continue to live with their parents after they finish their education.

**b.** Young people should not move away from home after they finish their education.

1. **a.** Wars are always wrong.

**b.** Wars are not always wrong.

1. **a.** Exams are not useful.

**b.** Exams do not check students’ knowledge.

* + **PLANNING/ORGANIZING THE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

When you are **planning the argumentative essay,** be aware that the essay should contain the following characteristics:

1. The argumentative essay should **introduce and explain the issue or case**. The reader needs to understand what the issue is going to being argue.
2. The essay should **offer reasons and support** for those reasons. In other words, the essay should prove its point.
3. The essay should **refute opposing arguments**. (refute: to prove wrong by argument or to show that something is invalid/untrue/illogical)
* **ORGANIZATION of an ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**
1. **Introduction.** You can **first introduce the problem** and give background information necessary for the argument and the thesis
2. **Reasons.** It is usually a good idea to spend one paragraph for each reason. Two or three reasons are typical.
3. **Refutation.** Depending on the points the writer wants to make, one or two paragraphs are typical.
4. **Conclusion**.
	* **OUTLINE of an ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

**Introduction**

**Introduction:** Background about the topic

**Thesis statement:** …..

**BODY**

1. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** *(weakest* argument that supports your opinion)
2. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** *(stronger* argument that supports your opinion)
3. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** (*strongest* argument that supports your opinion)
4. **Con (against/negative):** (Counter/oppose arguments and your refutation)

**Conclusion**

Summary, solution, prediction, or recommendation

* **USEFUL TIPS for ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS**

**To write well developed paragraphs:**

* **Avoid strong feelings** (don’t say: nobody does this, or it is impossible to disagree with me)
* **Use generalizations** (e.g. people say/believe/consider)
* **Do not use generalization** (e.g. everybody believes that…..)
* **Do not use strong personal expressions** (e.g. I think)
* **Use linking words** (e.g. therefore, although, however etc.)
* **Use sequencing** (e.g. firstly, secondly, lastly)
* **Make reference to other sources** (e.g. The government claims that…)
* **Give examples – not personal thoughts** (e.g. products such as sprayer can destroy the environment)
* **Give up banal introductions**. **Write something more original** (Don’t write: This topic has been important since ancient times. When? Too vague = unclear)

**MODEL ESSAY: Read the following essay and pay attention to thesis statement, transitions and topic sentences.**

 **Why Women Should Not Have an Abortion**

 Many women in the entire world have abortions. Women believe there are many reasons to abort such as fear of having or raising a child, rape, or not having enough money. But whatever the situation, there is never an acceptable reason to get an abortion. **Some important reasons why women should not abort have to do with human values, religious values, and values of conscience.**

**Entire**; whole;

**Abort**: to end a pregnancy **Abortion** n.

**Rape**: physically force another person to have sex

**Privilege**: freedom; right

**Humanitarian**; compassionate; caring

**Egoistic**; self-centered; selfish

 **The first reason why women should not have an abortion is related to basic human values.** Women need to think about their unborn babies who are not responsible for this situation. These unborn babies should have the privilege to live and grow into a normal person. Women need to be more humanitarian and less egoistic with these babies. **On the other hand,** the baby doesn’t know how or why he is here. It is not necessary to kill a life; there are many other solutions to resolve this problem short of abortion.

 **The second reason why women should not abort has to do with religious values.** In almost all religions, a woman is not permitted to have an abortion. If they do, their religions will punish them. In some religions, for example, a woman cannot take communion after having an abortion, and before taking communion again, she must do many things as a form of penitence. In whatever religion, abortion is punished and for this reason, women should not abort.

 **Finally, the third and most important reason why women should not**

**Conscience**; sense of right and wrong; principles; ethics

**Calamitous**: dreadful. tragic.

**abort is the related to her conscience.** When a woman has an abortion, she will always think about the baby she might have had. She will always believe about the future that could have happened with her baby which will always remind her that she killed it. Because she has had an abortion, she will never have a good life, and her conscience will remind her of what she had done. Because a woman who has an abortion can’t forget about what she has done, these thoughts will always be with her, and the results can be calamitous.

 There are many reasons why women should not have an abortion. The truth is that women need to think about the consequences that can occur before having sexual relations. I think that the effects of an abortion can be very sad for everyone involved, both for the woman who has the abortion and for the family who lives with her.

**PRACTICE 1: Read the following essay and:**

**a) Underline the thesis statement**

**b) Transitions**

**c) Modals**

**Medical Marijuana should be Legal**

Medical scientists and doctors in some countries have recently discovered that marijuana, an illegal drug. It is an effective medicine for severely ill patients who cannot get relief from their usual prescription drugs. In my opinion, marijuana should be legal for medical uses because it can improve the quality of life for some people with serious illnesses.

First of all marijuana can help cancer patients who must use chemotherapy or take anticancer drugs that cause serious side effects. It can also help AIDS patients to regain their appetite\* and therefore to gain weight. Moreover, it might effectively stop the spread of glaucoma\*, which can cause blindness, and it can relieve\* joint\* pain and relax muscles in certain other illnesses. Unfortunately, because marijuana is an illegal drug, it cannot be purchased even with a doctor’s prescription at a pharmacy.

In brief, smoking marijuana is effective enough to help seriously ill people who enjoy a meal or live without constant\* pain. Therefore, marijuana for medical purposes should be legal. (172 words) **\***

*Appetite:* iştah

*Glaucoma:* gözlerde karasu hastalığı *Joint:* eklem yeri

*Relieve:* free (from pain etc.), get better, lessen *Constant:* continues, steady

**PRACTICE 2:**

 *a) Match the first paragraphs in column A with the last paragraph in column*

**FIRST PARAGRAPHS**

…………………………..

**1.** When students are having discipline problems at school, I strongly believe that the parents are to blame. Children who are not well-disciplined at home do not behave properly at school.

 …………………………..

**2.** What can be done to protect our cities from environmental pollution? Over the past decade our cities and towns have become more polluted than ever and this is a trend that looks set to continue.

…………………………..

**4.**  There can be no doubt that television is the sole/only cause of the breakdown/failure of modern society and that it has absolutely no beneficial effect upon a child’s development.

**LAST PARAGRAPHS**

**a.** To conclude, it seems that the only way to improve the quality of our surroundings is to work together to protect the environment. Unless this is done, many cities and towns will have become uninhabitable within the next fifty years.

**c**. In conclusion, the best solution to the problem is to inform parents about the situation and offer them suggestions on disciplining their children at home. Thus, the child’s behavior will eventually improve at school as well.

**d.** The negative role that television plays in the development of a child can be summed up with a quotation from George Mikes, who said “Television is of great educational value. It teaches you while still young how to kill, rob, embezzle, shoot, or poison.

 *b) Write a title for each topic*

***NOTE To write a good argumentative essay, your approach to the topic must be logical from the beginning. A logical argument is the sign of a clear thinker****.*

**PRACTICE 3: Read the essay and answer the questions on the model essay.**

 **The Right to Die**

 A difficult problem that is facing society is euthanasia, another word for mercy killing. Thousands of young people are mortally ill because of incurable disease. They are all kept alive in artificial ways. They have no chance to recover completely, but most of the legal systems do not allow doctors to end their lives. However, fatally ill patients should be allowed to die for several reasons.

 The first reason is that medical costs are very high. The cost of a hospital room can be as much as a hundred dollars per day and even more. The costs of medicines and medical tests are also high. The family of the patient is responsible for these expenses. Consequently, they would be a terrible financial burden for them for a long time.

The second reason is that the family suffers. The nurses can only give the terminally ill patient minimum care. The family must spend time to care for the special needs of their loved one. They should talk, touch, and hold the patient even though he or she may be in a coma. For example, Karen Quinlan’s parents visited her every day even though she was unable to speak or to see. Also, it is very difficult to watch a loved one in a coma because his or her condition does not improve.

The third and most important reason is that the patients have no chance of recovery. They can never lead normal lives and must be kept alive by life – support machines. They may need a machine to breathe and a feeding tube to take in food. They are more dead than alive and will never get better. For example, in 1975, Karen Quinlan became unconscious after the she swallowed some drugs and drank alcohol. She was kept alive by machines. Her parents knew that her body and brain would never be normal. Therefore, they asked the court to allow their daughter to die. The judge agreed, and Karen’s breathing machine was turned off. She was able to breathe on her own, but she died nine years later in June of 1985.

In conclusion, because terminally ill patients have no chance to live normal lives, they should be allowed to die with dignity. Therefore, the family should have the right to ask to turn off the life-support machines or to stop further medical treatment. (397 words) (dignity: self-respect, pride)

1. Underline the thesis statement.
2. Underline the topic sentences that give reasons.
3. Circle the transition signals
4. What words begin each of the topic sentences?

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1. What is euthanasia?

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1. What would be a terrible financial burden for the family? (burden: problem)

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1. How does the family suffer?

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1. Which sentence expresses the writer’s opinion about the right to die?

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1. Do you agree with the writer’s argument? Why or Why not?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **EXPRESSING ARGUMENTS FOR and AGAINST TOPIC**

When you are giving arguments for and against a topic you **should present both views in a fair way**. Discuss them in equal details and show no bias (=prejudice).

**OUTLINE:**

 **Introduction:** Introduce the subject of the essay. *State why it is an important issue at the present time.*

**Main body:**

**Para. 1:**  Give the arguments **in favour of** the statement.

**Para. 2:**  Give the arguments ***against*** *t*he statement.

 **Conclusion:** Conclude by giving a well-balanced consideration.

**MODEL ESSAY / PRACTICE: 1**

**1** *Read the model essay and:*

*1. Underline the transition words,*

*2. Try to replace them with other similar words which are given,*

*3. Make an outline.*

 **Necessity of Technological and Scientific Advancement**

Moving towards the 21st century, technological advancement has become a focus of today’s society. Technology has entered the lives of even the poorest members of society, and it is very rare to find anyone who does not have some form of modern technology such as a TV or a food processor, in their home.

 There are many things to be said in favour of technological advancement, the most obvious being that it undoubtedly makes people’s lives easier. Without the benefits that technology brings, the world would be a much harder place to live in. For example, how would any business operate without faxes, photocopiers or telephones?

 On the other hand, technology also has the potential to destroy everything at the touch of a button – a point made by Quentin Reynolds when he said, “The scientists split the atom; now the atom is splitting us.” The danger of technological advancement is that machines will completely replace humans, leaving fewer jobs and reducing human contact in everyday life, which cannot be a good thing for society.

 In conclusion, although technology has the potential to provide a better quality of life for everyone, it is also capable of destroying everything within a very short space of time. As such it should be developed with caution and should never be allowed to take the place of human contact, because this is what ultimately holds a society together. (241 words) *Focus: center*

UNIT 2

**TRANSITION SIGNALS / USEFUL LANGUAGE**

***a. Introduction paragraph***

*This question/matter/subject can be looked at from several points of view.*

*This problem should be considered in relation to ……*

**State a strong, firm opinion e.g.:** *There is no doubt that women are more intelligent than men …*

 *I believe that by the year 2000, every home will have a computer …*

**Address the reader directly e.g.:** *Have you ever considered …?*

 Has it ever occurred to you that computers will one day organize your life?

**Start with the problem that needs a solution e.g.:**

*More and more species are becoming extinct …*

 As time passes, our lives will be controlled by computers.

**B. *Body – paragraphs 1,2,3***

**To list point**:

The first reason is …. First of all,

The second reason is …… To start with,

The third reason is …….. Secondly,

The third and most important reason is ….. Thirdly,

 Finally,

Another reason is ….

On the other hand, ….

On the contrary,

The final reason is ……

One major advantage of, One major disadvantage of,

A further advantage One point of view in favor against

One point of view in favor of

In the first place

Last but not least

White it’s true to say that ….

**To add more points to the same topic:**

What is more Furthermore Also

In addition to Besides Apart from this

Apart from that

**To make contrasting point**

On the other hand However In spite of

While Nevertheless Despite

Even though Although It can be argued that

One can argue that Yet But

***C. Conclusion paragraph***

To sum up, ….. To conclude …

On balance, …… In conclusion

It seems that ….. In my view …

 All in all,…. I believe …

All things considered, On the whole,

Taking everything into account, Above all,

As was previously stated

**TRANSITION WORDS**

***To list points To add more points to To make contrasting To conclude***

***the same topic: point:***

*one major advantage of what is more on the other hand to sum up*

*one major disadvantage of furthermore however all in all*

*a further advantage also in spite of all things considered*

*one point of view in favour of in addition to while in conclusion*

*in the first place besides nevertheless on the whole*

*first of all apart from this/that despite above all*

*to start with even though as previously stated*

*secondly taking everything*

*thirdly account*

*finally*

*last but not least*

**PRACTICE 1 : –Transitions- Complete the composition by using given transitions.**

**DEATH PENALTY**

Some countries still have the death penalty …1… it no longer exists in Britain. ……2……, after a particularly violent murder, British people sometimes call for it to be brought back. …….3…….my opinion, the death penalty cannot be defended for a number of reason.

 ………4…… and most important reason is that one can never be entirely certain that the accused person is guilty. In the ………5…, people have been sentenced to death and later it is discovered that they were completely innocent.

 It is often ……6…… that the death penalty prevents crime and that the risk of death acts as a deterrent. ……7…, many serious crimes are caused by a sudden and very powerful emotion. In these cases, the individual is not thinking sensibly and does not stop to consider the risks.

 One final ……8……… against the death penalty is that it sets a bad example. The laws of society should reflect its values. If it is wrong for one individual to murder another …9…… it is also wrong for the state to execute an individual.

 ………10…. believe the death penalty cannot defended. There are other ways of punishing criminals and these ways should always be tried.

***A.***

*1- A and B despite C although D moreover*

*2- A In addition B also C Nevertheless D In contrast*

*3- A In B for C About D With*

*4- A Firstly B The first C The one D Initially*

*5- A future B present C beginning D past*

*6- A told B heard C spoken D suggested*

*7- A Therefore B However C Moreover D Despite*

*8- A Reason B view C argument D opinion*

*9- A then B as C and D too*

*10- A In contrast B To sum up C At last D Fourthly*

***B.*Match paragraphs 1-5 with the following headings**

* Introduction
* Society should set an ex ample
* The death penalty does not prevent all crime
* Innocent people should never be killed
* Conclusion

**PRACTICE 2: *Contrast points in an argument.***

***Look at the box below. Notice how we use the words in italics to contrast points in an argument*.**

***Although***

***In spite of the fact that*** life in the countryside is very peaceful, it can also be lonely.

***While***

***Nevertheless,***

Life in the countryside is very peaceful. ***On the other hand,***it can also be lonely.

***However,***

 ***In spite of this,***

**Now complete the sentences:**

1. Keeping animals in zoos can be cruel. **In spite of this,** ………………………………………………….
2. If you have a car you can get around easily. **On the other hand,** ………………………………………
3. **Although** learning a foreign language is hard work, ………………………………………………………
4. **While** camping holidays can be great fun, …………………………………………………………………

SPECIAL NOTE:

***What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, to tolerate ambiguity. In the end, there are no certain answers. Martina Horner***

**PRACTICE 3:** Read the model essay and:

**1. Underline the transition words,**

**2. Try to replace them with other similar words which are given,**

**3. Make an outline.**

**TRANSITION WORDS**

***To list points To add more points to To make contrasting To conclude***

***the same topic: point:***

*one major advantage of what is more on the other hand to sum up*

*one major disadvantage of furthermore however all in all*

*a further advantage also in spite of all things considered*

*one point of view in favour of in addition to while in conclusion*

*in the first place besides nevertheless on the whole*

*first of all apart from this/that despite above all*

*to start with even though as previously stated*

*secondly taking everything*

*thirdly account*

*finally*

*last but not least*

**Working Mothers have Positive Effects on the Family**

Nowadays, more and more women work outside the home, which affects many people positively or negatively. Germaine Greer, the Australian feminist, said, “Most women still need a room of their own and the only way to find it may be outside their own homes.” If it is true, can it be done without having a negative effect on the family?

One point in favour of mothers working is that their children often learn to be independent from an early age, which can only be help them in the future. Also, in many families, the man’s salary alone is not enough to cover all household expenses. Thus, the need for extra income arises, and the woman has to work. Moreover, working outside the home gives a woman a sense of her own personal identity and self-confidence. A woman who stays at home will always be known as “John’s wife” and not as a person in her own right.

On the other hand, child care is expensive. Therefore, a large proportion of the money a working mother earns will be sent on childcare. What is more, if both parents are out working all day, they only see their children for a few hours in the evening. This can have a negative effect, as children may start to see their parents as strangers. Finally, working mother usually has to look after both the children and home in her spare time, so she is actually doing two jobs instead of one, which can be very tiring. She may also miss out on important events in her children’s lives, such as their first words.

To sum up, there are many arguments both for and against mothers working. Every family is different and what is good for one family may not necessarily be good for another. Taking everything into account, it should be left to the individual mother to decide whether working or not is something that she wants to do. (333 words)

**PRACTICE 3:**

**PRACTICE: Persuasive / Argumentative**

**Student Essay:**

Patty Crespo came to the United States from Ecuador in 1983 to study at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She wrote this composition in 50 minutes to pass the final examination of an ESL writing course. At the time she wrote it, Crespo could not decide if she wanted to stay in the United States or return to Ecuador.

**Private Language2**

The United States of America is one of the biggest countries in the world. It’s famous **because of** its freedom and rights of liberty. It is well-known **because** its population comes from all over the world. The immigrants can learn the United States’ language, English, to keep this country united**, but** it is unfair to change their culture for an American way of life.

 I believe that recent immigrants should learn English in order to live in this country. They should learn the “public language” to make a better this country. If they don’t learn English, they won’t be able to communicate and do what they want. **For example,** my mother’s friend came here from Ecuador three years ago. She does not speak English. One day her daughter, Anita, couldn’t breath. She didn’t know what was going on**, but** she told her mother to call an ambulance. When her mother called the hospital, she couldn’t talk. The operator couldn’t understand what Anita’s mother was saying Thank God; her sister arrived and called the ambulance. The doctor told her sister that **if** she hadn’t arrived at the hospital on time, Anita could have died. A pill had gotten stuck in her throat.

 Immigrants should learn English to speak with the public**, but** they should also keep their language at home. The children of immigrants should learn how to speak their parents’ language. It is very important to communicate with our relatives and family, in general. **If** we learn English only and forget our “private language,” we won’t be able to communicate with our parents. For example, Florence, my co-worker, speaks English only. Her mother didn’t teach her Spanish (her mother language). Nowadays, Florence can’t communicate with her grandparents or other relatives in Puerto Rico. She has lost her mother’s language, tradition and culture.

 Immigrants may replace their language with English, but it’s unfair to give up their culture. They grow up with a way of living and it is difficult to their language. They grow up with a way of living and it is difficult to change it because they are in another country. They have the right to keep their culture and values. We immigrants have the right to know where we come from and what our family’s culture is. **In this way,** we can transmit it to our future generation. **After all,** one amendment\* of the constitution of this country gives us the right. It is freedom of religion, culture and speech.

 **In conclusion,** immigrants should learn English in order to communicate with the public and to keep the country united, but they shouldn’t exchange their culture for an American way of life. They have the right to keep it

1. Write the writer’s main idea.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Make a list of the reasons or examples she uses to **support main idea**.

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1. Is Crespo arguing in favor of immigrants’ keeping two languages, or is she arguing in favor of immigrant’s keeping two cultures?
	* If the paragraph is about keeping two languages, **write** “**language**” in the margin.
	* If it is about keeping two cultures, **write**, “**culture**.”

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4. Write a composition about the same topic Patty Crespo did. Persuade your readers**, starting with a**

**generalization** and using **reasons** and examples, as Crespo did. Notice how Crespo gives reasons and

specific examples to support her argument.

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**USEFUL TIPS to WRITE A PARAGRAPH / ESSAY**1

**Answering the question**

Read the question carefully. Make sure you write about the title you are given, not one you would have preferred!

**Plannıng**

To write a clear, well-argued opinion, which does not confuse the reader, it is essential to organize your thoughts before you start. Brainstorm as many ideas/arguments as you can in favour of your opinion on a scrap of paper. Remember you will need to say why you believe in these ideas, too. Then plan out your paragraphs.

**Gıving the other sıde of the argument**

You should mention opposing views, but only briefly and in a short, separate paragraph. Make sure your side of the argument stands out to your reader.

**opinion language**

Remember to use the opinion language

**TRANSITION WORDS**

Use the words you have practiced to list points in an argument.

UNIT 3

**Expressing / giving opinions**

**OUTLINE**

**I. Introduction:** State your opinion clearly without using too many personal opinion words.

**Main body:**

Give the first point supporting your opinion.

Give the second point supporting your opinion.

Give the last point supporting your opinion.

**Conclusion:** Re – state your opinion, using different word.

**PRACTICE / MODEL ESSAY 1:**

**Read the following model and:**

**1. Circle the linking words,**

1. **Underline the examples given to support each point raised.**

SUBJECT: *Experiments on animals should be banned. Do you agree?*

 **Animal Testing should not be Banned**

 Each year about five million dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, monkeys, and other animals die in deadly dose tests which are performed in the U.S. The subject of animal testing is very open to question. In my opinion, animal testing should not be banned for a number of reasons.

 The first reason for supporting animal testing is that many products must be tested on animals to ensure\* that they are safe for use by humans. For example, diabetics would not be able to inject insulin to control their diabetes if it had not been developed by testing it on animals.

 Moreover, the effects of certain chemicals such as insecticides can be observed on animals and their offspring and results are achieved faster since animals have shorter life duration than humans and the ability to multiply easily.

 The final and most important point in favor\* of animal testing is that it is aimed at finding cures for diseases such as cancer. Most of these tests cannot be done in any other way. Forty years ago polio was a common tragedy amongst children. Animal testing led to the discovery of a vaccine and now this disease is very rare in developed countries. While some animals undoubtedly suffer, the end justifies\* the means.

 Contrary to popular belief, laboratory animals are not ill-treated and their suffering is kept to a minimum. As already stated, I am in favor of\* animal testing, provided that is conducted under strict conditions and that there is no alternative. *(231 words)*

 \*

*Means:* way, measure, process, method *Justify:* give good reason for

*Ensure:* make sure, guarantee, *Insecticide:* böcek öldürücü ilaç.

*point in favour:* point for *offspring:* children

*in favor of:* in support of, for, supporting

**PRACTICE / MODEL ESSAY 3:**

 **Read the following article and answer the questions.**

***Genetic Science*** *1*

***TV star Pat Kennedy gives her opinion.***

*Scientists have made amazing discoveries over the last twenty years, especially in the field of genetics. Already they can create strange new species of plants and animals. They may soon be able to design new kinds of human beings Do scientists really know what they are doing, and should we let them go on?*

*I think genetic engineering should be very carefully controlled. To begin with, life on our planet has evolved\* slowly, over thousands of years. If we change that process too quickly by tampering\* with genes, which are the building blocks of nature, we may cause terrible damage. I worry, furthermore, where scientist will stop if we allow them to ‘play God’ with our world, and whether they will be able to control the changes they are unleashing\*. Lastly, we should consider how some governments could use genetics. They might try to create ‘the perfect baby’ or design a ‘master-race’. This is a nightmare scenario, of course, but it could happen.*

*It is true that genetic engineering can be used for the good, to detect or even cure disease. Biotechnology can be commercially profitable, too, in farming and in agriculture. To my mind, however, these factors still do not outweigh the dangers.*

*In the wrong hands, genetic engineering can be used as a way of playing with nature. Nobody knows what the effects will be if we allow this to go on without strict controls. I think all of us should stop and think before we allow scientists to develop these techniques any further – our survival could depend on it!*

 *\**

*Evolve: develop, be developed Tampering: influence Unleashing: release, let loose*

1. Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph.
2. Which paragraph in the model essay:
	* gives the writer’s **opinion** and **reasons** for it?

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* + **restates the problem** and the **writer’s opinion**?

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* + **sets out the problem in general** and states **why it is controversial** (=debatable, discussible)?

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* + gives the **other side of the argument** and the reasons why the writer **isn’t convinced** by them?

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**PRACTICE / MODEL ESSAY4:**

1. Read the article below, which gives a different opinion. It is only in draft from, and there are ***grammatical errors.*** Correct them.

2. Does the ***writer put forward a logical argument for his opinion*? What is it? Which opinion do you agree with most?**

 **Genetic Science**

 **Some of the most exciting progress in the science has happen in field of genetics. It is now possible to grow plants who do not get diseases, and to breed cows which produce more milk. The scientists can even create new types of animals.**

**In my opinion, these development are very good news. In the first place, doctors will soon be able to use the genetic engineering to help fighting disease. They can tell you if there is a medical problem in your family which it could be passed on to your children. Hopefully, he may then be able to alter the genes and cure disease. This is particularly important on poor countries where people starve if the harvest will be bad. Finally, farmers can breed animals who produce more food, and are therefore more profitably.**

 **People sometimes argues that genetic engineering should be stop. They think scientific advance is ‘unnatural’. However, I believe that scientists and doctors can trusted to use this knowledge responsibly. After all, peoples protested about things like transplant surgery at the past but most people are in favour now. I feel sure that, in the future, genetic engineering is of enormous benefit to us of all.**

 **Breed; raise; bring up; produce**

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 UNIT 4

 **ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

**Advantages & Disadvantages**

If the aim of your essay is to give a rough idea the advantages and disadvantages of something, you are *not expected to express your own opinion by using personal words or expressions:*

Start by making a *general statement* and than *divide the advantages and disadvantages into two separate paragraphs*.

An opinion can be expressed in a non-emotional way. e.g*. it seems that … it can be seen that …*

**MODEL ESSAY: Read and copy**

**‘Importance of Tourists and Tourism’**

This question can be looked at from several points of view.

 **Firstly,** tourism should be considered in relation to a country’s economy. **Secondly,** it can be seen in terms of its effect on the countryside and environment. **Thirdly,** the influence of the tourist industry on culture must be taken into account.

The economy of a country often benefits as a result of tourism; foreign visitors come and spend their money, and this creates jobs for those who run hotels and restaurants. **However,** there are also certain drawbacks\*. **Whereas** the people directly involved in the industry may benefit, others may find that they are worse off. **This is because** the cost of living goes up and goods become more expensive since tourists are prepared to pay more for them.

**As far as** the effect on the environment is concerned, tourism is often a bad thing. **While** it is true to say that development results in better roads being built improvements for poorer areas, it is sometimes **also** very harmful. In some countries, huge hotels and skyscrapers have ruined areas of unspoilt beauty.

The cultural influence of tourism is difficult to measure. In some countries foreign influence can destroy the local way of life. **On the other hand,** countries which do not encourage tourism may miss the benefits that foreign technology and investment can bring.

**In conclusion,** it can be seen that tourism has both advantages an disadvantages; **if** it is controlled properly, it can be good for a country, **but** there will always be a danger that it may do a great deal of harm. *(270 words) Drawback:* disadvantage *Run:* manage, operate, administrate

UNIT 5 **DISCURSIVE ESSAYS**

In a discursive essay **discuss the subject as broadly as possible** without losing direction or flow. Take different viewpoints and discuss them together with the opposite opinion.

 **PLANNING:**

**Introduction:** Make a general statement about the topic.

**Main body:** Write various points of view in separate paragraphs.

In each paragraph you should include the opposite point of view.

**Conclusion:** Conclude by giving your own opinion on the subject.

 **SAMPLE:**

**The Importance of Sport**

 Sport is an important part of today’s society and plays a great role in many people’s lives. It is also sometimes described as our national excitement, a mere leisure activity that somehow has become symbolic of our national character. Moreover, n**ow more than ever,** sport events dominate headlines and athletes have become national heroes. Whether we prefer to watch a football or basketball match or a race, most of us admit to have at least some sporting interest. **But sport is more than an activity for watching or being interested. It's also a vehicle to form a social position, support education and economy.**

The question is, does sport merit\* this kind of interest and attention?

From a social standpoint\*, sport plays a positive role in uniting people from different social backgrounds in support of their favorite team. This can aid\* people’s understanding and tolerance of each other. **However,** just a sport unites people so it can divide them, as is often demonstrated by crowd violence at football matches.

As far as education is concerned, sport is an important part of every child’s schooling, as it plays a big role in both their physical and mental development. It teaches children how to work as part of a team and cooperate with others, while at the same time improving physical condition. **The only drawback to this is** that children who are less able to perform well in sport are likely to feel inadequate in comparison to their more gifted classmates, which may affect their self-confidence.

From the economic point of view, sport can be very profitable, as it attracts a lot of sponsorship and advertising. **On the one hand** this creates revenue\* for the sporting industry which allows for improvement and expansion\*. **On the other hand** large sums of money are often paid to event organizers to promote products such as cigarettes, which are harmful to one’s health.

**In my opinion,** sport should be used as much as possible to encourage people to lead a more healthy and peaceful life instead of being used to promote unhealthy products. (278 words)

 ***Aid:*** help ***Revenue:*** income, profit ***Expansion:*** growth, development

**MODEL ESSAY /PRACTICE 1:** Read the model essay and:

1. **Copy it.**
2. **Underline the opposite points of view.**

***The role of the Free Press***

*Newspaper and magazines play an important role in today’s society and are capable of influencing people’s lives in many ways. However, does the free press offer a valuable service, or is it, as American journalist, Edward Egglestone said, “organized gossip”?*

*On a personal level, the media can be very entertaining and informative. Reading about the lifestyles of the rich and famous is amusing and can help us forget our own problems. However, journalists frequently intrude on the privacy of celebrities, following them and photographing them in their most intimate\* moments. This is surely an unacceptable interpretation of the word “free”.*

*As far as politics are concerned, the free press is important as it often reveals the truth behind all the speeches and accusations. Unfortunately, most newspapers tend to favour a particular political party, meaning that their articles are not objective.*

*From an educational point of view, newspapers and magazines are an important source of up-to-date information and in-depth articles, reporting on both local and international events. They can be an invaluable part of a child’s education and often expand an adult’s knowledge as well. Opponents of this view say that newspapers do not always give correct information and facts are often falsely reported. Thus, they are not always appropriate learning material for students.*

 *On the whole, I believe that the existence of the free press is valuable to our society, as long as its power is used wisely and objectively in an effort to inform the public, rather than mislead it. (257 words)*

*intimate: personal, private accusation: blame, claim*

MODEL ESSAY - PRACTICE

***Practice 1:*** *The* paragraphs in the sample essay are in the wrong order. Match them to the following headings which are in the correct order. Write the essay in your notebook.

* 1. Introduction and illustration of the argument
	2. Analysis of the causes of the problem
	3. Suggestions for solutions based on the analysis
	4. Conclusion, including comments on the feasibility of the suggested solutions

***In many industrialized countries, juvenile crime is at record levels. Why is this so and what can be done about it?***

**JUVENILE CRIME**

*To sum up, juvenile\* crime is a sign that there is something wrong with society. Young criminals are not inherently\* bad; they are reaction to the conditions in which they find themselves. It is only when these conditions have been improved that crime rates will fall. To do this is expensive, and requires more spending on employment, welfare and education, but to do nothing would lead to a further deterioration in social order and would be a false economy.*

 *Juvenile crime is not new, but the crimes committed by young people today are far more common and serious than they were in the past. In a city such as New York, for example, it would not be considered extraordinary if someone were held up at gunpoint by a twelve-year-old or assaulted\* by a gang of teenagers.*

 *The problem of juvenile crime can therefore only be solved by removing those factors that cause it. Governments need to spend more on welfare\* benefits, but, more importantly, they need to create employment so both parents and children feel that they are part of society and can contribute\* towards it and benefit from it. Improvements in education are vital as well, so that children from it. Improvements in education are vital as well, so that children from even the most disadvantaged homes have a base and can be given encouragement and the opportunity to succeed in life. Governments can do little to stop the decline in the traditional family, but improved social conditions might allow more families to stay together.*

 *Before one can suggest a solution, it is necessary to analyze the problem and to see what has caused the explosion in juvenile crime. There are three main causes. Firstly, the social environment in which many young people find themselves in the inner cities plays a major role. Poverty and unemployment can create a sense of alienation\*, and a child who thinks that he has no hope of achieving the wealth and happiness that other people have will often become frustrated and violent. Secondly, in adequate education system may also be partly to blame. If a child feels he is not valued and is a failure, he will be prone to boredom and open to bad influences. Finally, the decline of the nuclear family and of traditional moral values may also play a role, and a child who grows up without the support of caring, loving parents may not develop a sense of responsibility or consideration for others.*

**Juvenile**: young **Inherently**: naturally

**Deterioration**: decline, fall **Assault**: physical attack

**Commit**: do, carry out **Welfare**: benefit, happiness, good

**Contribute**: play a role, be part of the cause **alienation**: unfriendliness, separation

**Prone**: -e egilimli olmak

**Explosion**: sudden increase

 **And now write your own essay on the same topic.**

*Tip*

In an argumentative essay, try and avoid the use of personal pronouns. Do not say, for example, “I don’t think there are any easy solutions to this problem.” Instead, make your sentences impersonal and present these ideas as facts, eg “There are no easy solutions to this problem.”

PRACTICE:

“Cigarette advertising should be banned completely.” What do you think of this statement? (150-200 words)

PLAN:

**Introduction:** A general introduction to the topic

 There is a lot of talk these days about….

 Cigarette advertising is….

**Body**

**Paragraph 2:** Arguments in favour of cigarette advertising

 Many people think…

 It is obvious that…

 People should be allowed …

**Paragraph 3:** Arguments against cigarette advertising

 We must, however, take into consideration…

 We cannot ignore the fact that…

 Then, of course, there is also the question…

**Paragraph 4:** Conclusion

 Having considered both sides of the argument I must say…

 In my opinion…

 I don’t think it’s right to…

**MORE TOEFL ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY SAMPLES**

 **Why Students Should Eat Breakfast Every Day**
 A lot of people, especially young people, go though the day without having breakfast. Many people believe that it is not necessary, or they say that they don’t have time for that, and begin their day with no meal. I believe that everyone should eat breakfast before going to their activities. The purpose of this paper is to show the importance of breakfast, especially for students.

The first reason why you should eat breakfast before going to school is for your health. When you skip breakfast and go to school, you are looking for a disease because it’s not healthy to have an empty stomach all day long. It’s very important to have a meal and not let your stomach work empty. All you are going to get is gastritis and a lot of problems with your health if you don’t eat breakfast.

Another reason for eating breakfast is because you need food for to do well in your classes. You body and your brain are not going to function as good as they could because you have no energy and no strength. When you try to learn something and have nothing in your stomach, you are going to have a lot of trouble succeeding. A lot of people think that they should not eat because they are going to feel tired, but that’s not true. Breakfast is not a very big meal, and on the contrary, you’re going to feel tired if you don’t have breakfast because you have spent the entire previous night without food.

The last reason to have breakfast every day is because you can avoid diseases if you eat some breakfast in the morning. If you don’t eat, you are going to get sick, and these diseases will have a stronger effect on you because you’re going to get sick easier than people who have breakfast every day.

You have to realize that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and you cannot skip it without consequences for your health, your school and your defense mechanism. It is better to wake up earlier and have a good breakfast that run to school without eating anything. It is time for you to do something for your health, and eating breakfast is the better way to start your day.  by Claudia Hernández

1. **Is the ability to read and write more important today than in the past? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer**.

**Importance of Reading and Writing - 1 -**

 Today science and technology has come to pervade every aspect of our lives. Computer, television and radio have almost replaced the newspaper and letter once dominated our lives. Accordingly, the issue about whether the ability to read and write is more important today may attract our attentions. It is clear that classified views have converged into two: some think reading and writing ability is more important today than in the past, while others deny its importance. As I see it, I agree with the former view without any hesitation and my choice is based on a careful consideration of the following reasons.

 The main reason which may win most of people's support is that if lack the reading and writing ability, one would be considered as illiterate who has been deprived of the most basic right of human beings in the 21st century. It will be hard for us to imagine how somebody who can't read and write communicates with other people. A case in point is that one of my neighbors who is an old man and cannot read and write may only talk with others face to face. As for making friends by email and search information in newspaper, it is absolutely impossible.

 The second reason I would like to point out is that people today who cannot read and write cannot even make a living. Good jobs are difficult to find because of economic depression. Nearly all the jobs require people who can read and write very well. Even if one just plans to be a driver, he must read the road sign and know where he is and where he will go.

 Furthermore, the ability to read and write could bring us lots of advantages. Suppose that people who have tired out with a hard week's sweat and effort may get lots of benefits and relief from reading a short novel and broaden his horizon by appreciating a nice poem. Many friends around me would believe reading and writing some effective ways to relax themselves.

 People today especially those children may find it easier for them to manipulate the mouse of the computer than to write things down by hand. Watching TV instead of reading may still occupy someone's most leisure time. Yet if all the factors I discussed above are contemplated and we are to minimize the losses and maximize the gains, it will not be hard for us to realize that the ability to read and write is more important today than in the past.

**Importance of Reading and Writing – 2 -**

 Is the ability to read and write more important today than in the past? Everyone has his answer depending on his experience and life style. Some people think it is true because people need not read and write in past. On the contrary, other people believe there is not big difference between today and yesterday. As far as I am concerned, I would like to say that reading and writing are getting more important for our life day by day. In the following discussion, I will provide some reasons and examples to support my viewpoints.

 The main reason for my propensity is that knowledge is very important for us today. Without education, it is very hard to find a good job and you will have a hard time to do the work. There is too much new knowledge today. In the past days, people can teach each other by oral, therefore, reading and writing is not as important as now. However, if you enter a company today, your supervisor will only give you a instruction book and tell you begin to study it. Nobody has time to teach you by oral. If you can read and write well, you will get more smoothly at work.

 Communication is another head and chief reason I have chosen to put here. Many professions require people to work in team to solve problems and make decisions. Reading and writing can help you to know other colleague are doing, on the other hand, it can also help you to tell other people what you have done and your plan for next step.

 To be honest, I can not deny that some people who can not read or write also have a nice life today. Nevertheless, for the normal people, the benefits of reading and writing carry much more weight than illiterate, so the conclusion is obvious.

 For all factors presented above, we can safely draw the conclusion that reading and writing are more important today than in the past. Furthermore, we should pay more attention to improve our ability of reading and writing.

**Importance of Reading and Writing – 3 -**

 Today science and technology has come to pervade every aspect of our lives. Computer, television and radio have almost replaced the newspaper and letter once dominated our lives. Accordingly, the issue about whether the ability to read and write is more important today may attract our attentions. It is clear that classified views have converged into two: some think reading and writing ability is more important today than in the past, while others deny its importance. As I see it, I agree with the former view without any hesitation and my choice is based on a careful consideration of the following reasons.

 The main reason which may win most of people's support is that if lack the reading and writing ability, one would be considered as illiterate who has been deprived of the most basic right of human beings in the 21st century. It will be hard for us to imagine how somebody who can't read and write communicates with other people. A case in point is that one of my neighbors who is an old man and cannot read and write may only talk with others face to face. As for making friends by email and search information in newspaper, it is absolutely impossible.

 The second reason I would like to point out is that people today who cannot read and write cannot even make a living. Good jobs are difficult to find because of economic depression. Nearly all the jobs require people who can read and write very well. Even if one just plans to be a driver, he must read the road sign and know where he is and where he will go.

 Furthermore, the ability to read and write could bring us lots of advantages. Suppose that people who have tired out with a hard week's sweat and effort may get lots of benefits and relief from reading a short novel and broaden his horizon by appreciating a nice poem. Many friends around me would believe reading and writing some effective ways to relax themselves.

 People today especially those children may find it easier for them to manipulate the mouse of the computer than to write things down by hand. Watching TV instead of reading may still occupy someone's most leisure time. Yet if all the factors I discussed above are contemplated and we are to minimize the losses and maximize the gains, it will not be hard for us to realize that the ability to read and write is more important today than in the past.

**Importance of Reading and Writing - 4 -**

 Is the ability to read and write more important today than in the past? Everyone has his answer depending on his experience and life style. Some people think it is true because people need not read and write in past. On the contrary, other people believe there is not big difference between today and yesterday. As far as I am concerned, I would like to say that reading and writing are getting more important for our life day by day. In the following discussion, I will provide some reasons and examples to support my viewpoints.

 The main reason for my propensity is that knowledge is very important for us today. Without education, it is very hard to find a good job and you will have a hard time to do the work. There is too much new knowledge today. In the past days, people can teach each other by oral, therefore, reading and writing is not as important as now. However, if you enter a company today, your supervisor will only give you a instruction book and tell you begin to study it. Nobody has time to teach you by oral. If you can read and write well, you will get more smoothly at work.

 Communication is another head and chief reason I have chosen to put here. Many professions require people to work in team to solve problems and make decisions. Reading and writing can help you to know other colleague are doing, on the other hand, it can also help you to tell other people what you have done and your plan for next step.

 To be honest, I can not deny that some people who can not read or write also have a nice life today. Nevertheless, for the normal people, the benefits of reading and writing carry much more weight than illiterate, so the conclusion is obvious.

 For all factors presented above, we can safely draw the conclusion that reading and writing are more important today than in the past. Furthermore, we should pay more attention to improve our ability of reading and writing.

**Why Women Should Not Have an Abortion**

Many women in the entire world have abortions. Women believe there are many reasons to abort such as fear of having or raising a child, rape, or not having enough money. But whatever the situation, there is never an acceptable reason to get an abortion. Some important reasons why women should not abort have to do with human values, religious values, and values of conscience.

The first reason why women should not have an abortion is related to basic human values. Women need to think about their unborn babies who are not responsible for this situation. These unborn babies should have the privilege to live and grow into a normal person. Women need to be more humanitarian and less egoistic with these babies. On the other hand, the baby doesn’t know how or why he is here. It is not necessary to kill a life; there are many other solutions to resolve this problem short of abortion.

The second reason why women should not abort has to do with religious values. In almost all religions, a woman is not permitted to have an abortion. If they do, their religions will punish them. In some religions, for example, a woman cannot take communion after having an abortion, and before taking communion again, she must do many things as a form of penitence. In whatever religion, abortion is punished and for this reason, women should not abort.

Finally, the third and most important reason why women should not abort is the related to her conscience. When a woman has an abortion, she will always think about the baby she might have had. She will always think about the future that could have happened with her baby which will always remind her that she killed it. Because she has had an abortion, she will never have a good life, and her conscience will remind her of what she had done. Because a woman who has an abortion can’t forget about what she has done, these thoughts will always be with her, and the results can be calamitous.

There are many reasons why women should not have an abortion. The truth is that women need to think about the consequences that can occur before having sexual relations. I think that the effects of an abortion can be very sad for everyone involved, both for the woman who has the abortion and for the family who lives with her.

**Essay to Persuade**

**Why Mexican Families Should Practice Family Planning**by Orquídea Briones Ocádiz

For a long time, Mexican couples have not traditionally used birth control. Because of this, it is very common to find big families. Therefore, the population in Mexico has increased considerably affecting not only the family itself but the whole country as well. Overpopulation is a serious problem that represents an obstacle for Mexico’s perseverance. The purpose of this essay is to explain why planning our families would help to assure family life success as well as increase the chances of Mexico’s economic growth as opposed to population growth.

The first reason why Mexican couples should plan their families is that in this way they can better distribute attention, time, and care among the members of the family. When a couple responsibly decides the number of children they want and can raise, they obtain a clearer perspective of the family life they expect to have. Consequently, a family is able to enjoy benefits such as having better communication with each other, sharing important moments, and strengthening family ties.

The second reason why Mexican couples should plan their families is the possibility of providing for their children's education. Mexico’s general level of education is very low due to a large number of population who do not even finish elementary school. A major reason for this problem is a non-planned family. If a couple with insufficient economic resources has many children, it is very obvious they will not be able to give them an adequate education. A proof of this is the big number of children on the streets asking for money. On the other hand, a planned family helps increase the educational level among the children. Therefore, children will be given a chance to be competitive in the daily changing world.

Finally, the third reason why Mexican citizens should plan their families is the fact that Mexico has more chances of improving its competitiveness and quality of life in many aspects. We all know that family represents the basis of a society. Therefore, each and every family contributes to Mexico’s economic and social situation. If we could have more conscious and responsible families planning the number of their children, our opportunities for economic growth would be increased. Building a better a place to live increases the possibilities of receiving better services, avoiding geographical distribution problems, and improving our expectations of economic growth.

Mexico’s future depends a lot on its families. For this reason, each couple should make a conscious and responsible use of their rights to decide the number of children they want. Planning our families will enable us to distribute time, care, and attention among the members of the family. Planning our families will give us the opportunity to afford education for our children. Planning our families will increase Mexico’s possibilities for growth in many aspects.  We should consider these enormous benefits when deciding the number of children we want.  Fewer children in families will raise the quality of life both within the family and in Mexico.  However, the responsibility for the final decision is only yours.

**Why You Should Not Smoke**
By Luisa Moad ITESM, Campus Queretaro Advanced English C

I am sure that you know that smoking harms your body. Then why do you continue smoking? Maybe you do it because you haven’t really become conscious about all the effects that smoking has. There are a lot of reasons why you shouldn’t smoke. Some of them are that smoking affects your health, that you spend a lot of money on cigarettes, and that when you smoke you are not respecting people around you.

The first reason why you shouldn’t smoke is that smoking affects your health. If you smoke, your physical condition will be negatively affected, so it will be very difficult for you to succeed in sports. Also, smoking produces lethal diseases like cancer and reduces the length and quality of your life. Maybe you don’t notice all the physical effects of smoking immediately, but you surely will be sorry one day.

The second reason why you shouldn’t smoke is because of all the money that you spend on it. Maybe you start smoking only when someone offers you a cigarette, but there will be a day when you will feel the need of a cigarette. By this time, you will pay whatever to smoke, and each time you will smoke more, so you will spend more money. All the money you would spend on cigars could have be spent in something better, don’t you think?

The last reason why you shouldn’t smoke is out of respect for the people around you. When you smoke, you not only harm yourself, but you also harm all the people around you. So you mustn’t be selfish; you should at least avoid smoking in front of people who don’t smoke. Also, many people don’t like the cigarette’s smell, so they won’t enjoy your company. Would you like that?

I have said just some reasons of why you shouldn’t smoke, so I hope that now those of you who smoke are able to think a little and try to make a smart decision. In addition to all the reasons I’ve said, I would like you to think about how much you love yourself and then whether you want to continue harming yourself. Think also about all the people who love you, like your family who doesn’t want to see you suffering or sick. If you decide to continue smoking, what a pity. But if you decide to stop smoking, congratulations! Remember that "If you can dream it, you can do it."

**Essay to Persuade**

**Why People Should Read for Pleasure**
by Pilar Martínez Ramirez ITESM, Campus Querétaro Advanced English

In the past years the use of the television and the internet has increased; this situation has caused many people to change their likes and the way that they enjoy their free time.  Because of television and the internet, many people spend less time reading, so the purpose for this essay is to present reasons why people should read just for pleasure.  The reasons that I give you are quite simple: to improve your knowledge, to expand your general culture, to have more fun, to make your imagination fly, to find new ways to express your ideas, and finally to expand your vocabulary.

The first reason that I give you to enjoy reading is that when you read, you can expand your knowledge and also your culture. There are a lot of good books in which you can find history, novels, tragedies, comedies and a variety of other themes. You can see that people who read more often frequently have a bigger knowledge of life and also a bigger perspective of their environment.  I think that fact gives them an advantage over all others who do not read frequently.

The second reason to read more often is that through books you can have fun and even travel in your imagination.  Children have not yet lost the ability of getting  into their dreams, and because of this, in their first years the parents read a lot of tales  in which they use their imagination. Adults should try to keep this ability, so we do not forget the importance of the use of the imagination. The imagination also represents a tool that could help you to develop your professional career in a creative way.

Finally, the third and the most important feature that reading offers you is that it does not matter the age that you have, you always could expand your vocabulary and the ways to express your ideas to the others in a simple and correct form. By the time you can improve the kind of books that you read, there are a lot of categories, so you will never stop learning from the pleasure of reading. People who know how to choose a book generally have the capability of choosing a formal book in which they can find formal grammatical structures and obviously a formal vocabulary.  All these things allow them to gain greater fluency in their communication.

In conclusion, I recommend that you enjoy reading more often. There are excellent reasons for doing it;  you just have to want to expand your knowledge and your culture, to improve your imagination and also your vocabulary. I know that we should evolve with the technology; that is, it is good to know how to navigate in the internet, but we must also not forget the books. Try to choose good books at the beginning, and then I ensure you that you never will stop reading.

**Why We Should Not Compare Ourselves with Others**
By Rogelio Pérez Lara ITESM, Campus Querétaro Advanced English

In our culture a lot of times people advise us to compare ourselves with others.  "You should be like your father," "You can win; the others aren’t as good as you," "You must be the best of your class," etc., and this is not always the best way of thinking. There are many reasons to change this way of thinking and begin to compare ourselves only with ourselves. This is the way it should be, and in this paper I will discuss some of the most important reasons for this.

The first reason to avoid comparing yourself with others is that there will be always someone better than you. It doesn’t mater in which aspect, but it is always true. Therefore, you could feel inferior to others and maybe without a real reason. For example, you can be an incredible architect and the best of your generation, and this can make you feel incredibly good, but if someday someone is better than you are, you could feel sad although you are still the same incredible architect that you were before.

The second reason to elude this kind of comparison is that you will always find someone worse than you, but as opposed to the first reason, this can make you feel better than the others, and this feeling can turn into a horrible pride. For example, if you are the second best student of your class, and one day the very best student leaves the school, you will then be the best one although you are still only as good as you were before.

These two first reasons leads us to a third one: If you want to be better than the others, you don’t need to improve yourself; you only have to make the others look bad. If I want to be the leader of the group, but you are the leader now, what I need to do is to make you look like a traitor or stupid and then I can take your place. Then I will be better than you.

A fourth reason to stop comparing ourselves is that the one who compares him/herself with others is judging, and this doesn’t help us develop as human beings. Nobody knows the internal reality of the other; nobody knows his/her story and his/her most deep intentions, and when we judge it’s harder to accept the others.

The last but most important reason to avoid comparing ourselves with others is that when we do, we can be tempted to copy them, to do the same things, and to act and think like them. The problem with this is that if we copy someone, we will never know who we really are and what we really want, and then we will never grow spiritually.

For all these reasons and because we are unique, we should not compare ourselves with others, only with ourselves. The only comparison pattern that we really have is our consciousness. So, if we use this pattern we will not feel less or more than others; we will not try to make others look bad; we will not judge so much; and we will accept ourselves as we really are. In other words, we will live happier.

**Why People Should Exercise**

Maru Mercado Advanced English Erlyn Baack

In the past, I have never been inclined to participate in sports. Honestly, I didn’t like it, but many persons whom I lived with kept telling me everyday how good it was. Since the peer pressure was growing, I decided to go to the gym. It wasn’t until then that I could really understand people when they said exercise really helped a person get organized and keep yourself in a healthy physically and mentally.

For starters, when you are a lazy person, it is difficult to take the first step, but it is all a matter of committing yourself to something that will provide you a lot of positive feedback. Once you start doing exercise and observing positive results, you actually enjoy it. It takes a lot of effort and strong will, but it's worth it. The principal thing to do is to participate in an activity you like. If you do you’ll start organizing your day in a way that enables you to do everything you have to, including exercising. You will no longer be a person stressed-out without time to carry on with all your activities.

Second, it is obvious that once you exercise you will have a better condition. You will be healthier in a physical way. It is probable that you will lose weight and your muscles will get stronger and stronger. Your body will feel good, full of energy and it will respond immediately to any action you want to do, any activity that has to be done with high spirits.

The third reason why exercising is good is that it affects you positively in a mental and psychological way. Doing exercise helps you set specific goals which along with strong will can be achieved. When you do that, you are aware of your abilities, accept your weaknesses, and your self-esteem goes up. Any sport distracts you because it helps you not to think about school, friends, problems, among other things. It brings you time to think about yourself and no one else. It helps you keep your mind busy and to avoid dangerous habits like drugs.

Doing exercise is very important to any person of any age. The positive effects of exercising, which I’ve already mentioned, are like a chain. Once you do a sports activity that you like, you get organized; therefore, you start doing things the right way and get enormous benefits which make you feel good as a whole human being. You start living your life happily.

**Why You Should Communicate Effectively**

By Claudia Arista Martín ITESM, Campus Querétaro Advanced Composition Sello C

Establishing and developing effective communication is important in order to be heard and change your environment according to your own thoughts. No one will guess what you want or what you think if you don’t tell them, and nothing is going to change if you do not propose a change. The purpose of this essay is to discuss four important skills that will help you communicate effectively. Such skills are not to be afraid of speaking, always defend what you want to say, express exactly what you mean to say, and listen while you are not speaking.

The first aspect to communicate effectively is not to be afraid of speaking. Anytime you need to say something, go ahead and do it. Most of the times people are afraid of speaking because they are not sure if it is the right thing to say and/or the right moment to say it. Be sure, say what you want to say, and do not regret it. If you speak you will be heard and taken into account. You are important so you need to be heard. There is one thing you should not do somehow: Do not say something that will hurt somebody’s feelings. Unless that something has to be said inevitably, say it, but as softly and gently as you can. Never hurt anyone intentionally. Always think twice before saying something. You choose what to say, just be sure to say the right thing at the right time. If you do that, you won’t regret a thing.

Second, if you want to communicate effectively, defend what you say. Once you have said something you can never go backward; you must back it up. The worst thing that you can do when speaking is to hesitate. Hesitance means self-insecurity and this means weakness. The strength of your words will surely determine their effect on the listener. The way that you speak and the content of your speech tell a lot about yourself and your personality. A conversation allows speakers and listeners to get to know each other better. Besides, people will only know what you say; they cannot go any further if you do not let them. It is only by means of intelligence, strength, and security that you will be able to change the world around you. And, it is also by means of intelligence, strength, and security that you will be heard and taken into account.

The third main aspect of effective communication is to express exactly what you mean to say. Pick up the words that will express exactly what you are thinking of. Do not forget that one half of a word belongs to the listener and the other to the speaker. The listener gets his or her own version of what is said. However your job is to express yourself clearly, so that you can avoid misunderstandings. Although, avoiding misunderstandings is a hard task (not impossible), when it is achieved you will be expressing yourself effectively. Everybody will be able to identify exactly what you say, what you think, and what you want. Words are double edged weapons which can be used either to defend or to attack. If you make a good use of them, you will be able to do almost everything.

The fourth main point to effective communication, and probably the most important of all, is the listening part. Listen and do not interrupt when it is no longer your turn to speak. You will surely learn new things from listening to others. If a person is speaking, it’s because she or he wants to be heard. Effective communication is based on both listening and speaking. If communication were based only on speaking, it would be an absolute tyranny. Nevertheless, communication is the means through which you express yourself in order to be heard and change your environment according to your own version of reality. Thus, it would be impossible to change anything if there were no one to listen, learn, and accept new ideas. Listening is a gift, and good listeners are always very appreciated because there are only a few.

Effective communication will help you to express yourself better, allow you to let other people express themselves, and help you to change your environment toward your own thoughts and beliefs. Words inspire no fear. Speak them. Words make you strong. Support them. Words show what you are and what you think. Do not let yourself be misunderstood. Words are valuable. Listen to them!

**Argumentative Essay Topics**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

*Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.*

1. Boys and girls should attend separate schools.
2. Technology has made the world a better place to live.
3. Advertising can tell you a lot about a country.
4. Modern technology is creating a single world culture.
5. Teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn.
6. Classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child’s success in school.
7. Grades (marks) encourage students to learn.
8. The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide.
9. Children should begin learning a foreign language as soon as they start school.
10. Telephones and email have made communication between people less personal.
11. Dancing plays an important role in a culture.
12. People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave?
13. There is nothing that young people can teach older people.
14. Reading fiction (such as novels and short stories) is more enjoyable that watching movies.
15. Only people who earn a lot of money are successful.
16. A person’s childhood years (the time from birth to twelve years of age) are the most important years of a person’s life.
17. Playing a game is fun only when you win.
18. High schools should allow students to study the courses that students want to study.
19. It is better to be a member of a group than to be the leader of a group.
20. Watching television is bad for children.
21. Playing games teaches us about life.
22. A zoo has no useful purpose.
23. Parents are the best teachers.
24. Television has destroyed communication among friends and family.
25. Universities should give the same amount of money to their students’ sports activities as they give to their universities libraries.
26. Progress is always good.
27. With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly.
28. Face-to-face communication is better than other types of communication, such as letters, email, or telephone calls.
29. The most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns.
30. A person should never make an important decision alone.
31. Games are as important for adults as they are for children.
32. Police are unnecessary because they aren’t reducing crime.
33. Wars are always wrong.
34. All required university courses are boring.
35. Exams are not useful.
36. Inflation is the only problem of our country.
37. Motor racing should be banned.
38. The country should only be run by women.
39. Moslems make better human beings than Christians.
40. Divorce is sometimes a solution to marital problems.
41. Women, not the government, have the right to make their own decisions about abortion.
42. Marijuana should (not) be legalized.
43. Capital punishment
44. Make a list of disagreement in your family or neighborhood.

Explain the reasons that people give for and against this particular point.

1. Make a list of some of the major social or political arguments currently in the newspapers on T.V.
2. Animals should not be used as laboratory tools.
3. Governments should not organize lotteries.
4. Public should require uniforms in order to benefit both the student and the society as a whole.
5. Vicious and dangerous sports should be banned.
6. All genetic engineering should be banned.
7. Women shouldn’t work.
8. Animals shouldn’t be kept in zoos.

**How can we improve our writing ability?**

The first step is to read, read and read again.

Practice on a quality newspaper regularly and study a few articles carefully.

**ANSWER: Genetic Science**

 **Some of the most exciting progress in the science has happen in field of genetics. It is now possible to grow plants who do not get diseases, and to breed cows which produce more milk. The scientists can even create new types of animals.**

**In my opinion, these development are very good news. In the first place, doctors will soon be able to use the genetic engineering to help fighting disease. They can tell you if there is a medical problem in your family which it could be passed on to your children. Hopefully, he may then be able to alter the genes and cure disease. This is particularly important on poor countries where people starve if the harvest will be bad. Finally, farmers can breed animals who produce more food, and are therefore more profitably.**

 **People sometimes argues that genetic engineering should be stop. They think scientific advance is ‘unnatural’. However, I believe that scientists and doctors can trusted to use this knowledge responsibly. After all, peoples protested about things like transplant surgery at the past but most people are in favour now. I feel sure that, in the future, genetic engineering is of enormous benefit to us of all.**