

MODULE 4E

WRITING SKILLS

FOR-AND-AGAINST ESSAYS

Read the rubric and find the key words. Answer questions 1-3.

You have had a class discussion about banning cars from city centres. Your teacher has now asked you to write an essay for the school magazine presenting the arguments for and against this idea.

- 1 What will the essay be about?
- 2 What style will you write it in?
- 3 Which of the following points could your essay include? Which are pros and which are cons?

Can you add any more ideas?

PROS

CONS

reduce traffic jams

cars are faster and more comfortable

lower petrol costs

reduce accidents

reduce air and noise pollution

crowded public transport

public transport follows fixed routes

Match the topic sentences (1-3) to their supporting sentences (A-C).

1 There are certainly a number of good reasons for using natural gas.

2 There is no doubt that using public transport has many advantages.

3 There are, however, a few disadvantages to using solar energy.

A Firstly, it is more environmentally friendly as it helps to clear the roads of cars. This, in turn, reduces air and noise pollution.

B The main one is that it can be very expensive to set up such a system. Also, it is of no use at night.

C First of all, it doesn't pollute as much as burning coal or petroleum does.

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Read the topic sentences below and write appropriate supporting sentences. Compare with another pair.

- 1 There are many advantages to recycling.
- 2 On the other hand, there are certain disadvantages to clearing forests.



Linkers

- 6** **a** Look at the list of linkers in the table. Which of them can you see in the essay on p. 72? What is the purpose of each one? Replace them with suitable alternatives.

to list: Firstly, To begin with, Secondly, Finally

to introduce results/examples: Consequently, As a result, For this reason

to add a point: Also, In addition, What is more, Not only ... but ...

to contrast: However, Nevertheless, although, but, while, On the one hand ...: On the other hand ...

to conclude: To sum up, To summarise, All in all, On the whole, All things considered

b Choose the correct linkers.

- 1 There are many advantages to raising parking charges. **However/Therefore**, there are also/ in addition certain disadvantages.
- 2 **Consequently/Not only** do I think the rainforests should be protected, **but/what** is more many more trees should be planted.
- 3 **Not only/All in all**, I am opposed to nuclear energy.
- 4 **In addition/On the one hand**, I agree with using clean fuel in cars. **On the other hand/As a result**, this will inconvenience people.

Beginnings & endings

To make your writing more effective, you can:

- address the reader directly.

If you use public transport, you will help reduce pollution.

- use a rhetorical question.

Is there perhaps a better way to encourage people to use bicycles?

- use a quotation/popular saying.

As Ayn Rand once said, 'Animals change themselves for the environment, but humans change the environment for themselves.'

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Read the extracts below and say whether they are beginnings or endings. What techniques have the writers used to make their writing more effective?

- 1 To sum up, although there are valid arguments against buying second-hand clothes, I feel that there are certainly enough arguments in favour of it. Besides, as the saying goes, 'A penny saved is a penny earned.'
- 2 With the wide variety of exotic pets available in pet stores, the trend seems set to increase. Are you actually doing the right thing, however, by taking one of these rare creatures home?
- 3 All in all, I believe that there are more pros than cons to reusing household items. After all, doesn't it make sense to save the planet as well as save ourselves quite a large amount of money?

Expressing agreement/disagreement

Which of the following phrases can we use to express: *agreement?* *disagreement?* *both?*

- I think/believe that ...
- I would disagree that ...
- I am (strongly/very much/totally) in favour of ...
- In my opinion/view, ...
- I would argue that ...
- I (strongly, etc) agree with/believe that ...
- I (strongly, etc) disagree with ...
- It seems/appears to me that ...
- I am (totally, etc) opposed to/against ...

Use the issues presented in the extracts in Ex. 8, p. 74 to express agreement/disagreement.

► *I am strongly against keeping exotic animals as pets.*