

Writing Task 2 Official Guide Test 14-1

Some people believe that it is best to accept a bad situation, such as an unsatisfactory job or shortage of money. Others argue that it is better to try and improve such situations.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Some people (directly copied) argue that when having-facing negative situations, changing these situations them is preferable, whereas others oppose to this attitude. In this essay, both viewpoints view-point will be discussed. (Incorrect specific statement for a both sides + opinion essay as you have not covered the opinion issue)

First (Do not start paragraphs with first/firstly/second/secondly as these are too basic) and foremost, people can develop their skills by trying to improve the situations, which also brings about benefit to society. Actually, there are many people who have become wealthy from poor financial condition condition by developing their skills. For example, Steve Jobs, a founder of Apple Computer, started his career when selling less profitable software and became one of the world's world top businessmen businessman by cultivating his ability with an aim to improve his financial status. It is an undeniable fact that his effort contributed to society with many inventions. As his achievements illustrate, an attempt to change the undesirable situation contributes to developing develop skills, and what is more, it has a positive impact on society. (only one main point)

However, changing the situation occasionally needs painstaking effort. Some people, being who are too keen to improve the situation, suffer from mental illness. For instance, when a businessperson business person tries to improve their sales by changing the conventional method, they have to convince managers and unwilling colleagues who have not not used to the existing method of the expected result. (this is hard to follow and understand) They also have to overcome the setbacks of failing being is fail. It demands strong will and mind, without which people cannot can not accomplish their goal. (only one main point)

In conclusion, as mentioned above, (do not refer to above or below like this in an IELTS essay) people can develop their skills in the process of improving the situation and also can contribute to society. However, considering that it is often so demanding that their health is affected, I personally believe trying try to improve the situation is not always a respectful option. (minimal coverage of the opinion issue in this conclusion)

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	Estimated Grade	
Task Response	6	<p>✓ 250 -320 words</p> <p>✓ all parts of the topic are responded to well</p> <p>✗ all parts of the question are responded to well Limited and weak coverage of the opinion issue in the conclusion.</p> <p>Only one main point given for each of the two sides.</p> <p>✓ main ideas are clear</p> <p>✓ explanation/examples of main ideas are clear</p>
Cohesion and Coherence	6	<p>✓ good overall structure</p> <p>✗ the first paragraph clearly introduces the essay Incorrect specific statement.</p> <p>✓ topic sentences introduce paragraphs well / clear central topic</p> <p>✓ paragraph development is logical</p>
Vocabulary	7	<p>✗ appropriate word choices / control of word endings/forms See the errors pointed out in the essay including the content highlighted in yellow.</p> <p>Reasons below/following/above/as follows</p> <p>It is generally considered inappropriate to say "I will give my reasons below" in a formal essay or following for several reasons:</p> <p>Redundancy: In a formal essay, you are expected to present your arguments and reasons directly without stating that you will provide them. This statement adds unnecessary redundancy to the essay.</p> <p>Lack of Clarity: Instead of explicitly stating that you will provide reasons below, it is more effective to transition smoothly into presenting your arguments with a short summary of the main points.</p>

		<p>Wasting Word Count: This type of essay has a strict time limit, and using phrases like "I will give my reasons below" or 'in the following' consumes time that could be used to provide a summary of your supporting evidence.</p> <p>Aim for Directness: Formal essays should be clear, concise, and direct. Stating that you will give reasons below can detract from the overall effectiveness of your writing and may not align with the expected style for this type of academic task.</p> <p>Instead of saying "I will give my reasons below," or 'in the following' you should directly present a summary of your reasons and arguments in a structured and logical manner. However, this is different in some essay types like the outweigh type.</p> <p>✓ repetition is avoided</p> <p>✓ spelling is correct</p>
Grammar	7	<p>✗ articles (a, an, the) See the errors pointed out in the essay including the content highlighted in green.</p> <p>✗ sentence structures are correct</p> <p>See the errors pointed out in the essay including the content highlighted in green.</p> <p>✓ Punctuation</p>
Overall	6.5	<p>Can not and cannot</p> <p>The terms "cannot" and "can not" are often used interchangeably, but there are subtle differences in their usage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cannot:

- "Cannot" is the most commonly used form and is a single word. It means "unable to" or "not able to."
- **Example:** "She cannot attend the meeting today." (She is unable to attend.)

2. **Can not:**

- "Can not" is less common and is typically used when "not" is part of a separate phrase or emphasis. It emphasizes the possibility of "not" doing something, but it is less common in modern usage.
- **Example:** "You can choose to participate, or you can not." (You have the option to choose not to participate.)
- Another usage might be in sentences where "not" belongs to a separate element of the sentence.
- **Example:** "I can not only sing but also dance." (Here, "not only" is a phrase.)

In most cases, "cannot" is the correct and standard form to use when you want to express inability or impossibility. "Can not" should be used only in specific cases where the structure or meaning of the sentence requires it.

Both Sides + Opinion Essay

The question has three requirements. You must discuss each side of the argument from a neutral point of view and then give your opinion, which is your view on the argument. In order to score a six and above you need to make sure you meet all three requirements of the question. To get to 7 you must answer all three requirements fully. In order to make your opinion clear I believe it is best to keep your opinion out of the body of the essay. If you put your opinion in the body of the essay, then you risk it becoming unclear to the examiner whether you have completed all three requirements. **Not to mention that you are no longer displaying neutrality.** Essentially it becomes difficult to see both sides and your opinion.

With regards putting the opinion in the introduction, this is a contentious issue. In order to reduce the risk I advocate putting your opinion in the introduction but in a very specific manner which I will outline below.

A typical error that students make is to not say sufficient about their opinion. One sentence that is opinion related in the conclusion is clearly not enough to get to 7.

Remember this is a both sides + opinion essay. It is a different type to an opinion essay.

You only need two sentences for your introduction. You may have learnt from other teachers that you should include aspects such as a background to the situation, but you need to bear in mind that this is a very short essay of only a little over 250 words and so

you want to keep your introduction brief. I suggest you just write a general statement and specific statement.

The general statement is the topic that you need to write about. You can write this very easily by just rephrasing the topic you are given. This is the best way to do this. Do not try to be creative here, as you will not be rewarded for this and you risk lowering your score for task response if you misstate the topic.

The specific statement comes from the question part of the task. What you write will depend upon which of the three types of questions are asked. If the essay asks for your opinion you should give this here. If the question asks for anything else, you should start this statement with: this essay discusses and then rephrasing what you are asked for.

With the rephrasing or paraphrase of the topic you must capture the essence of the two sides. The specific statement that is about to be discussed refers to the two sides so it is essential that these are correctly transcribed into your general statement.

With the specific statement, you need to say what the essay is about

This sentence can always be written the same for every question of this type, as follows:

This essay discusses both sides of this argument, and then I will give my own perspective which is (STATE BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR OPINION).

Nothing more is required in the introduction. You should try to memorize a sentence like this for this type of essay because you will be able to write it very quickly and without any errors with vocabulary and grammar. The introduction for this type of essay is the easiest of the three types of essays. If you want to use a slightly different sentence:

The purpose of this essay is to analyze both sides of this argument and then I will give my own perspective which is (NOW STATE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR OPINION).

"This essay discusses both sides of this argument and why I believe that [your opinion]."

After you have written the introduction, you will need exactly two body paragraphs. You want a paragraph for each side of the argument. I suggest putting exactly two main points in each paragraph. A good paragraph should only have one main idea. The main idea of each paragraph is the side of the argument that it is focused on. After this you have two main points to support each side. You can then support each of these main points by explaining it or giving an example to illustrate it. In order to keep the size of your essay manageable, you might choose to have a major and minor point in each paragraph. The major point may use three sentences and the minor point 2 sentences. For instance, you might use this structure:

S1 topic sentence: make it clear which side of the argument you are discussing
s2: make the first main point
s3: explain the main point
s4: give an example to illustrate the main point
s5: make a second main point
s6: explain or give an example to illustrate the second main point

Each body paragraph should start with a topic sentence. The topic sentence should make it clear to the reader which side of the argument the paragraph is about. For example:

There are merits of schools only focusing on preparing young people for their working lives.

Giving your opinion, which happens in the conclusion

You should always signal the start of your concluding paragraph to the reader by using the words "In conclusion". Do not write "to summarise" or similar to begin this paragraph as you are not doing this; you are giving your own opinion. For this type of essay you should follow this with a phrase to make it clear that this final paragraph is about your opinionI believe. Generally, your opinion can consist of three parts. The first part states that there are merits of both sides of the argument, which makes sense given that you have discussed these in the body of your essay. Second, you should give your opinion on the argument. The best way to do this is to say which side you support more strongly. Third, you should give a justification for your opinion. In other words, you should state the reason why you more strongly support this side of the argument.

Essentially the structure is as follows:

1. Signal the start of your final paragraph.
2. State that both sides of the argument have merits.
3. Say which side you support more strongly.
4. Give a justification for supporting this side more strongly.

I recommend that each of these elements is related to your opinion. The following is the recommended format to achieve this.

In conclusion, I believe both sides have merit. On balance, it is my opinion that -----
(add a full stop and start a new sentence) This is because it is my firm belief
..... as I feel that.....

I have highlighted the opinion comments so there is no misunderstanding.

Useful Links:

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[The three main Types of essays](#)

[Linking words](#)

[Vocabulary for writing](#)

[Dictionary](#)

[Grammar](#)

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