

WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY STEP BY STEP

➤ **STEP 1: WARMING UP :**

Task 1: Individually, look at the question and tell the class about it:

Have you got a mobile phone? What do you use it for?

Watch the following video and answer the questions:

I forgot my phone

<http://vimeo.com/73085316>



Watch the movie and answer the questions.

1. Name three of the activities the woman engages in during the film.
2. Explain the concept of the film and what you think the message may be.
3. Is this an exaggeration of the way we interact today? If so, how much of an exaggeration?
4. What kind of cell phone etiquette do you and your friends have when you are together? Would it be ok to act like her friends do during the film?

➤ **STEP 2: GROUP DISCUSSION.**

In groups of four, have a look at the arguments for and against mobile phones. Choose three arguments from each group and explain to the rest of the class why you have chosen them (10 minutes group discussion and 10 minutes group exposition)

For or Against Mobile phones



FOR



AGAINST

Young people feel safer and protected if they can reach family and friends quickly.

2. It is a convenient means of keeping in touch with anyone at any time.
3. For many they have become an indispensable part of their daily lives.
4. It is easy to keep in contact with others at any time, even outdoors or in remote areas, where there are no telephones.
5. Mobile phones enable us to call for help during times of emergency and saves lives.
6. In some cases the police made use of the victims' cell phones to locate the kidnapers or other criminals.
7. Mobiles are not only a great time-saving device, but they are a source of entertainment too.

1. People tend to become too dependent on mobile phones.

2. People without a mobile phone are thought of as eccentric and left out.

3. Some people feel uncomfortable or handicapped without their mobiles.

4. Talking on mobile phones can also be expensive because the **SCHOOL** roaming costs are high, especially when abroad or overseas.



5. Mobiles are believed by some people to give out radioactive waves and some scientists believe that this radioactivity can cause brain tumors or damage our ears.

6. People can easily become addicted to mobile phones since they are now multi-purposed with different functions.



7. Mobile phones can also cause a lot of



problems such as cheating in tests at school or university.

- 8. Mobile phones affect students learning abilities and concentration at school as they may play games and send messages during lessons.
- 9. Some children are known to use their phones 6 to 7 hours a day.

➤ **STEP 3: Writing Model.** Look at the writing model attached to these photocopies where the writer explains its reasons for and against mobile phones. Pay attention to the structure and organisation of ideas and complete the following chart:

Arguments For 	Arguments Against 

- **STEP 4: LANGUAGE USE:** *When we write an argumentative essay we must use linking words and connectors to put our ideas together (cohesion & coherence). Read the the pairs of sentences. Which one expresses similar ideas? Which pair uses contrasting ideas:*

1. Their team has got the best players. **Moreover**, their coach is fantastic.
2. Their team has got the best players. **Nevertheless**, they lost the last game.

Connectors of Addition	Connectors of Contrast
In addition	However
Furthermore	Nevertheless
Moreover	Nonetheless
As well as	On the one hand/ on the other hand
Also	In spite of
And	Despite
Besides	Although/ Though/ Even though
What's more	But
Apart from this	In contrast

➤ **STEP 5: LANGUAGE PRACTICE:**

Task 1. Choose the correct connector.

1. Patricia seems to be wuite clever....., she often gets low marks.
a. Nevertheless b. Furthermore
2. The service at this restaurant is excellent....., the food is delicious.
a. However b. In addition
3. I've never been to England,..... having cousins there.
a. as well as b. despite
4. Nigel is a careful driver....., he's had several accidents.
a. Besides b. Nonetheless
5. Marcy loves playing sport,..... she's not very good at it.
a. and b. but
6. Fiona is talented at music..... Art.
a. as well as b. in spite of

Task 2. Connectors are usually written in specific places in a sentence. In pairs, taking the connectors from the previous chart, classify them according to their sentence position. Check your answers with your classmates and your teacher:

At the beginning	Either at the beginning or in the middle	Only in the middle

Task 3: Some connectors have got similar meanings but are followed by different structures. In pairs go to STEP 5, Task 1, sentence 3. What word follows the connector?

<u>ADVERB CLAUSE</u> although it was <u>cold</u> S V (noun)	=	<u>PREPOSITION + NOUN (OR NOUN PHRASE)</u> despite the <u>cold</u> (you can use the same noun) (noun)
because it was noisy S V (adj)	=	despite the <u>noise</u> (change to noun form) (noun)
even though I <u>was</u> late S V	=	in spite of <u>being</u> late (sometimes you can change the verb to <u>gerund</u> form)

Choose the correct connector:

- 1) We're studying now **despite/ even though** there's an important match on TV.
- 2) I'd like to talk **although/ in spite of** I know you're busy.
- 3) **Despite/Although** her efforts, she failed the exam.
- 4) **Even though/In spite of** we were having difficulties, we felt optimistic.
- 5) We didn't win the game **although/ in spite of** all our hard work.

Task 4: Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors in brackets.

1. Laura apologised several times. Nevertheless, Jason wouldn't speak to her. **(but)**.....
2. We decided to walk even though it was raining.
(in spite of).....
3. George works very hard to help his parents. He's also a good student. **(In addition)**
4. I'm keen on ice cream. Furthermore, I'm keen on chocolate. **(as well as)**
5. You're late again and you haven't brought your books. **(What's more)**
6. On the one hand, I'd love to come. On the other hand, I haven't really got the time. **(Nonetheless)**.....
7. Rome is a great city to visit, but it has got terrible traffic problems.
(despite)

➤ **STEP 6. FINAL TASK.** Write a For and Against Essay on the following topic:

School Uniforms Should Be Compulsory.

Before you write your final composition, complete the draft to guide your writing. Be careful with structure, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling (150-190 words)

Topic Sentence (Introduction):	
Arguments For:	Arguments Against:
Conclusion:	

Argumentative Essay: Writing Rubric

Name _____ Date _____ Score: _____

	2 Exemplary	1 Developing	0,5 Beginning
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Structure</i> • <i>Introduction</i> • <i>Conclusion</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively organized in a logical and creative manner. • Creative and engaging intro and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The essay has an organization, but it needs improvement. • Some transitions are used, but more are needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow. • No introduction or conclusion.
Ideas and Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main idea may be cloudy because supporting detail is too general or even off topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks central idea; development is minimal or non-existent
Vocabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Precision</i> • <i>Effectiveness</i> • <i>Imagery</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive, broad range of words • Word choice energizes writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words may be correct but mundane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited range of words. • Some vocabulary misused.
Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Accuracy and variety</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective variation in sentence patterns • Accurate use of the grammar • Good length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many similar patterns and beginnings • Frequent run-on sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to follow. • Disjointed, confusing, rambling.
Conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spelling, capitalization, punctuation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong control of conventions. • Errors are few and minor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited control of conventions; • Frequent errors do not interfere with understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous errors distract the reader and make the text difficult to read.

Comments
