

Writing L4WLO8

Explaining a Viewpoint

Learning Outcome 8: Explain a viewpoint on an issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options

EXPLORING WRITTEN ENGLISH

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING Explaining a Viewpoint

When you give your opinion, or viewpoint, about a specific topic or situation in your writing, you need to explain why you have that opinion. You need to show your readers that you have thought about the advantages and disadvantages of different viewpoints or actions. For example:

An advantage / A disadvantage of doing this would be ...

A benefit / drawback / downside of taking this approach would be ...

It cannot be ignored that this would help ... That approach would cause issues ...

You also need to show the reader the different options available in a situation. For example:

On the one hand, ... On the other hand, ...

If you compare this solution with other solutions, you can see that ...

A Read the sentences. Write A for the sentences that give advantages, D for the sentences that give disadvantages and C for the sentences that compare options.

1. A downside of doing this job is that it would be quite stressful most of the time. _____
2. A benefit of preparing your own lunch instead of eating out is that you save money. _____
3. If you compare this approach with other approaches, you will see that it will help us to save more money. _____
4. On the one hand, the UK is a long way away from my home. On the other hand, it is a great place to practice speaking English. _____
5. It cannot be ignored that this would give young people more opportunities. _____

B Write at least one advantage and one disadvantage of doing each of these things.

1. getting up at 4:30 a.m. every weekday

2. going out to eat at a restaurant most days

3. working as a manager that is responsible for a team of 30 people

EDITING PRACTICE Checking the Structure of your Explanation

When you are explaining your viewpoint, you need to ensure that you present this explanation in a logical way so that it's clearer and easier for the reader to understand. Start by presenting the issue or situation and after that, give your opinion about it. Then you need to present the disadvantages of your opinion to show that you have considered these, before presenting its advantages. Finally, you can compare the different options available in the situation before explaining why you think your viewpoint is the most appropriate one.

C Choose one of the items in exercise B and write a plan for how you could organize the information in a paragraph that explains your viewpoint on it.

WRITING TASK

GOAL You are going to write a paragraph giving your viewpoint on the following topic:
Driving cars will be safer when all cars are driverless, i.e. when human beings don't need to control them.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- ☐ Did you explain your viewpoint by discussing advantages and disadvantages and comparing options?
- ☐ Did you use expressions for introducing advantages and disadvantages and comparing options?
- ☐ Did you check that your paragraph had the appropriate structure?
- ☐ Did you use vocabulary and grammar correctly?