**ANIMAL RIGHTS: WRITING AN OPINION ESSAY**

*You have had a class discussion about keeping animals in captivity. Some people argue that this is wrong, while others believe that it has certain benefits.*

*Your teacher has asked you to write an essay (150 – 200 words) to express your opinion on the subject, supporting it with reasons and examples.*

1. **Analysing the topic**
2. What kind of text are you going to write?
3. What is the topic? What are you asked to do?
4. What style / language are you going to use?
5. **Studying a model text**

Keeping wild animals in captivity is a controversial issue. There are people who completely reject the idea of having animals imprisoned,1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others think that this is beneficial in certain ways. Personally, I believe that taking animals away from their natural habitats is an inhumane practice that should be abolished for a number of reasons.

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, animals have a life of their own and they should not be regarded as a form of entertainment. It is well known that wild animals kept in circuses are usually treated with cruelty as part of their training. 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fact that circuses using animals are gradually disappearing in many countries, zoos and aquariums also put on similar shows at the expense of the animals’ welfare.

4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, keeping animals captive is against nature. Animals have the right to live free in their natural habitats together with other members of their species. In zoos, animals are confined in restricted areas, where they cannot graze or hunt. 5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they become inactive and end up feeling bored, lonely or depressed. Others might react differently and even become aggressive.

6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, zoos and animal shelters can provide a safe place for animals in need of protection. There is a large number of endangered species threatened by deforestation, pollution or illegal hunting. In such cases, keeping them in captivity might be their only chance of surviving in a safe environment, where they can receive specialized care by experts.

7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, apart from certain cases in which animals are in danger, keeping them imprisoned is totally unacceptable as far as I am concerned. It is important to realize that the natural world is not human property and deserves to be respected.

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

1. Match the paragraphs in the text with the descriptions (a - e) below.
2. Opposing argument with reasons/examples/results
3. First argument with reasons/examples/results
4. Rephrasing the topic, referring to the two sides of the argument, expressing the writer’s opinion
5. Summing up main points and restating the writer’s opinion in different words
6. Second argument with reasons/examples/results
7. Fill in the gaps 1-5 in the text with the following **linking** **words/phrases**. Then, replace them with alternative ones.
8. To start with
9. To sum up
10. while
11. As a result
12. Furthermore
13. Despite
14. On the other hand
15. What phrases/expressions are used in the essay for **expressing an opinion**? What others can you think of?
16. **Your turn**

*You have had a class discussion about factory farming. Some people believe that this way of breeding animals is completely wrong, while others argue that it has certain benefits.*

*Your teacher has asked you to write an essay (150 – 200 words) to express your opinion on the subject, supporting it with reasons and examples.*

1. What is your opinion on the topic?

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1. Think of two arguments to support your opinion and one opposing viewpoint.

**Supporting arguments**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Opposing argument**  
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1. Think of reasons/examples/results for each of the arguments in question 2.

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**Organising your ideas**

1. How many paragraphs are you going to write? What are you going to include in each paragraph?

* See ex. B1 and the plan on p. 61 in your Student’s book.

1. What words and phrases do you know for:

* Listing points
* Adding a point
* Giving examples
* Giving results
* Summing up
* Expressing your opinion
* See ex. B2 and B3 and the useful language on p. 62 in your Student’s book. Choose the words/phrases you think you could use in your essay.
* Study the model essay in part B to get ideas for your writing.