



OPINION ESSAY

EM - 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades

An opinion essay is a formal piece of writing which requires your opinion on a topic. Your opinion should be stated clearly. Throughout the essay you will give various arguments/reasons/viewpoints on the topic and these will be supported by evidence and/or examples. You could also include an opposing viewpoint in a paragraph.

The main and essential parts of the opinion essay are: **Title, Introduction, Argument/Reason, Supporting evidence** and **Conclusion**.

(Source: <https://cutt.ly/qxqEo5u>)

Examples:

The Violent Media

These days, the amount of violence in the media is growing. While some people argue that this trend will undoubtedly lead humans to a dangerous future, others claim that it has no damaging effect on the society. I believe that in most cases media violence doesn't affect people's behavior.

Firstly, I think that people act from their motives, regardless of what they see on the television. That is to say, if someone intends to do harm to somebody, that is not because of watching TV or playing computer games, but due to that person's character and education. Although it is generally considered that violent media accustoms viewers to cruelty, I doubt this opinion. In my view, reasonable and intelligent people treat others humanely irrespective of what they see or hear in fictional stories.

Moreover, video games and television may even reduce social violence by providing a safe outlet for aggressiveness. In other words, truculent people may fight in virtual reality instead of evincing their combative spirit in the real world. This may not only help those people, but also reduce the level of social violence in long-term perspective.

Finally, despite many claims and assumptions about negative effects of television and computer games I have never seen any proven connection between violent media and illegal activities in social life.

Taking everything into consideration, I would say that violence in contemporary media has no substantial influence on people's behavior. Television and computers are not the main factors that shape personal character, and they can even be useful in reducing the level of violence.

(Source: <https://ielts-up.com/writing/ielts-essay-sample-1.html>)

Example 2:

An opinion essay

Are video games a good way to keep fit?

Nowadays, many teenagers have got video consoles at home and they often like playing active video games. These are good for you for a number of reasons.

First of all, I think that active video games are a good way to keep fit. There are lots of different types of exercise you can do such as basketball, water-skiing and dance and, what's more, you can play them in the comfort of your own home. In my opinion, these games are fun and interactive because you can play them with friends and, if you play online, you don't need to be in the same place as your friend to play.

In addition, you can play them whenever you want. Some people think that it's better to do exercise outside in the fresh air. Although this is true, it's actually difficult to play outside when it's raining or very hot so video games are a good alternative.

To sum up, I believe that video games are a fun and social way to keep fit. I think they are a good option when you can't play outside and they might encourage people to do more exercise.

Top Tips for writing

1. Write your essay in clear paragraphs. Use phrases like *First of all*, *In addition* and *To sum up* to start each paragraph.
2. Express your own opinion using *I think*, *In my opinion* or *I believe*. Mention other viewpoints with phrases like *Some people think* and say whether you agree or disagree with them.

(Source: <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/intermediate-b1-writing/opinion-essay>)

Write an opinion essay about the theme Reading the World. Refer to discussions you've had or information you've accessed through the media about any polemic issue both in English and Portuguese. The examples above may help you with ideas concerning content, language and organization. Your text should be in English and no longer than two pages. Use font Arial size 11 and have 1.5 spacing between the lines.

The assessors will consider the following aspects of the text:

Marking Scheme		
Criteria	Score	Description
Content	2,5	Does the text refer to the discussion of the theme? Have the candidates done what they were asked to do? Or have they written something irrelevant?
Communicative Achievement	2,5	Does the candidate use a writing style which is appropriate for the genre? Do they state their viewpoint clearly? Are there relevant arguments on the topic and are they supported by evidence and/or examples?
Language	2,5	Is there a proper range of vocabulary and grammar structures? Are they used accurately? Or are there mistakes that could make the text difficult or confusing for the reader?
Organisation	2,5	Is the writing put together well? Is it coherent and cohesive? Or is it difficult for the reader to follow? Are the main elements of the genre (title, introduction, argument/reason, supporting evidence and conclusion) present?