



Environment and Conservation

Article: should schools go paper-free?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. How much paper does a school use every day?
2. What are the benefits of digital worksheets?
3. When is paper still useful for learning?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.
Use a catchy title and opening hook.
Develop ideas with reasons and examples.
Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether schools should go paper-free. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Using less paper would be better for the environment.'
'Digital work is easier to store and share.'

'Not everyone wants to read everything on a screen.'
'Paper is sometimes simpler during lessons.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

Could Our School Go Paper-Free?

How much paper does one school use in a week? After a recent class discussion, many students began to wonder whether paper-free learning is realistic. It sounds modern and environmentally friendly, but the answer is not completely simple.

On one hand, using less paper could reduce waste. Digital worksheets are easier to store, edit and share, so students are less likely to lose important notes. A paper-free system could also help the school save money on printing over time, which could be spent on other resources.

However, screens are not perfect for every lesson. Some students find it easier to read, highlight and plan ideas on paper. Others may not have reliable devices at home, which could make homework less fair. Teachers also need backup plans when technology fails, otherwise lessons can quickly lose focus.

In my view, schools should aim to use less paper rather than ban it completely. If paper is saved for tasks where it genuinely helps learning, the school can protect the environment without making lessons more difficult.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, hook, benefits, contrast and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain environmental or practical benefits?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why paper may still be useful?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a realistic compromise?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or concern that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
benefits of less paper	modal verbs + practical examples	You are explaining possible advantages clearly.	could reduce waste / easier to store, edit and share
limits of digital learning	contrast + fairness language	You are showing why the issue is more complex.	However, screens are not perfect / which could make homework less fair
your view	compromise language	You are suggesting a realistic middle position.	use less paper rather than ban it / If paper is saved for...

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	How much paper does...? / Could our school go...? / Is paper-free learning realistic?
add context	After a recent class discussion... / many students began to wonder... / It sounds modern, but...
introduce benefits	On one hand... / using less paper could... / Digital worksheets are easier to...
show contrast	However... / not perfect for every lesson / The difficulty is that...
show concern	Others may not have... / when technology fails / This could make...
finish with a view	In my view... / rather than ban it completely / Schools should aim to...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe resources	paper-free learning / digital worksheets / printing / devices	
describe benefits	reduce waste / easier to store / save money	
describe problems	reliable devices / technology fails / less fair	
sound article-like	How much paper does...? / the answer is not completely simple	
upgrade ideas	realistic / compromise / genuinely helps learning	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another environmental issue at school.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of change		
problems / other side		
final view / suggestion		

