



Home and Local Area

Article: should young people help improve their local area?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What places in your local area could be improved?
2. How can young people help their neighbourhood?
3. Why might some teenagers not feel involved locally?

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 young people should help improve their local area. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'We know what young people need here.'

'A cleaner park would benefit everyone.'

'Adults do not always listen to teenagers.'

'Students are already busy with schoolwork.'

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

Our Area, Our Voice

Who understands what young people need in a local area better than young people themselves? Too often, decisions about parks, buses or community spaces are made without asking students. That should change.

Young people can offer useful ideas because they use local spaces every day. They know whether the park feels safe, whether there are enough places to meet friends and whether transport works after school. A student clean-up day, short survey or design competition could also show that teenagers care about where they live.

However, helping the local area should not mean giving students another heavy responsibility. Many teenagers already have homework, exams and family duties. Adults also need to take young people's views seriously, rather than inviting comments and then ignoring them.

In my opinion, young people should be involved in improving local areas, but in realistic ways. Schools could work with local councils to run short projects, collect student opinions and share practical suggestions. If teenagers are given a voice, the whole community could benefit.

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, reasons, contrast and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain why young people have useful ideas?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain limits or concerns?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest realistic local projects?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or condition 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
student voice	rhetorical question + examples	You are showing why students have relevant experience.	Who understands...? / parks, buses or community spaces
possible concerns	contrast + responsibility language	You are balancing enthusiasm with realism.	should not mean giving students another heavy responsibility / already have homework
your view	practical suggestion language	You are suggesting realistic ways to act.	Schools could work with local councils / collect student opinions

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	Who understands what young people need...? / Our area, our voice / Should students have more say locally?
add context	Too often, decisions about... / are made without asking... / That should change.
introduce reasons	Young people can offer... / They know whether... / This could show that...
show contrast	However... / should not mean... / Adults also need to...
show examples	parks, buses or community spaces / a student clean-up day / short projects
finish with a view	In my opinion... / Schools could work with... / If teenagers are given a voice...

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 local area	parks / buses / community spaces / neighbourhood	
describe action	clean-up day / survey / collect opinions / practical suggestions	
describe concerns	not always listen / heavy responsibility / already busy	
sound article-like	Our area, our voice / That should change	
upgrade ideas	realistic ways / benefit everyone / given a voice	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another local area issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
how young people can help		
concerns / other side		
final view / suggestion		

