



## Public Places and Services

Article: should libraries be more than places for books?

### 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What do people use libraries for apart from borrowing books?
2. How can public spaces support teenagers?
3. What could make a library difficult to manage?

#### 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 libraries should offer more activities for young people. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Libraries should be quiet places to read.'  
'Workshops and clubs would bring more people in.'

'Teenagers need safe places to study and meet.'  
'Too many activities could disturb other visitors.'

**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

#### A Library for More Than Books?

What should a modern library be? For some people, the answer is simple: shelves, silence and books. But if libraries want to stay useful for young people, they may need to offer more than a quiet reading corner.

Libraries can give teenagers a safe and affordable place to study, meet friends or use computers.

Workshops, homework clubs and reading groups could bring in students who would not normally visit.

These activities might also make the library feel more welcoming, especially for people who do not see themselves as keen readers.

However, the traditional role of a library still matters. Some visitors need a calm place to read or work, and too many noisy activities could spoil that. Staff would also need time, money and space to organise extra events properly.

In my view, libraries should offer more activities, but they should protect quiet areas too. With clear zones and a sensible timetable, a library can be both peaceful and lively. That balance could make it a public place that more young people actually use.

## 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 how libraries can support young people?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why quiet spaces still matter?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a balanced solution?	
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
new library activities	modal verbs + examples	You are explaining possible services clearly.	could bring in students / Workshops, homework clubs and reading groups
possible problems	contrast + consequence language	You are showing why activities need control.	However... quiet place / could spoil that
your view	balanced solution language	You are suggesting how both needs can be met.	should protect quiet areas too / both peaceful and lively

## 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	What should a modern library be? / A library for more than books? / Are libraries still useful for teenagers?
add context	For some people, the answer is simple... / if libraries want to stay useful... / more than a quiet reading corner
introduce benefits	can give teenagers... / could bring in students / might also make...
show contrast	However, the traditional role... / still matters / too many noisy activities could...
show balance	clear zones / a sensible timetable / both peaceful and lively
finish with a view	In my view... / should offer more activities, but... / That balance could...

## 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 libraries	shelves / quiet reading corner / computers / public place	
describe services	workshops / homework clubs / reading groups / activities	
describe concerns	disturb visitors / noisy activities / limited space	
sound article-like	shelves, silence and books / more than books	
upgrade ideas	safe and affordable / welcoming / sensible timetable	

## 8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another public service.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of new services		
concerns / other side		
final view / suggestion		

