



## Teenage Life

Article: should teenagers have more say in school decisions?

### 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which school decisions affect teenagers most?
2. How can students share opinions responsibly?
3. Why might adults not always follow students' ideas?

#### 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 teenagers should have more say in school decisions. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Students know what school life feels like.'

'A student council could collect useful ideas.'

'Some decisions are too complicated for us.'

'Adults should still make the final decision.'

#### 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

#### Should Students Get a Stronger Voice?

Who understands school life better: the people running the school or the students living it every day? Teenagers may not have all the answers, but our opinions should still be taken seriously.

A stronger student voice could improve school life. Students know which rules feel fair, which spaces are uncomfortable and which routines cause stress. A student council, short surveys or class discussions could collect ideas from many people, not just the loudest voices.

However, students should not expect to control every decision. Some issues involve budgets, safety or long-term planning, so adults need to make the final call. There is also a risk that popular ideas are not always practical or fair for everyone.

In my view, teenagers should have more chances to give opinions, but with clear limits. If school leaders explain which ideas can be used and why others cannot, students will feel respected rather than ignored. A stronger voice does not mean total control; it means being part of the conversation.

## 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 student voice matters?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why adults still need limits?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest how students should be involved?	
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
why students matter	rhetorical question + examples	You are showing that students have direct experience.	Who understands school life better...? / rules, spaces and routines
limits on decisions	contrast + reason language	You are explaining why adults still have responsibility.	However... budgets, safety or long-term planning
your view	limited recommendation	You are giving a clear view with sensible boundaries.	more chances to give opinions / with clear limits

## 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 school life better? / Should students get a stronger voice? / Are students being listened to?
add context	living it every day / may not have all the answers / should still be taken seriously
introduce benefits	could improve school life / Students know which... / could collect ideas from...
show contrast	However... / should not expect to control... / There is also a risk that...
show examples	student council / short surveys / class discussions / not just the loudest voices
finish with a view	In my view... / If school leaders explain... / part of the conversation

## 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 school life	rules / routines / student council / school leaders	
describe opinions	student voice / give opinions / collect ideas / surveys	
describe limits	budgets / safety / practical / final decision	
sound article-like	living it every day / part of the conversation	
upgrade ideas	taken seriously / respected rather than ignored / clear limits	

## 8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another teenage life issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
why students should have a say		
limits / other side		
final view / suggestion		

