



Environment and Conservation

Essay: student environmental projects

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What environmental projects can students join?
2. Should environmental work be part of school life?
3. Can small school projects really make a difference?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an essay, often for a teacher.
Present an argument or point of view.
Support ideas with reasons and examples.
Use a formal or neutral register.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether students should be expected to join environmental projects at school. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your opinion about this topic.

In your essay, you should discuss both sides of the argument and give your own view.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Tree planting and recycling teach useful habits.'
'Projects can improve the local area.'

'Students already have too many responsibilities.'
'Some people only join because they have to.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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 essay

Environmental problems can feel too large for young people to solve, but schools can still play a useful role. Some people believe students should be expected to join environmental projects. This idea has benefits, although it should be handled carefully.

One argument in favour of these projects is that they teach practical habits. For example, recycling campaigns, tree planting or clean-up events can show students how everyday choices affect the environment. They can also improve the school or local area.

On the other hand, students already have academic work, family duties and other activities. If environmental projects become another compulsory task, some learners may join without real interest. As a result, the activity may feel like a punishment rather than a meaningful responsibility.

In my view, schools should strongly encourage environmental projects but not make every activity compulsory. Overall, students are more likely to care about conservation when they can choose projects that feel useful and realistic.

4. Explore the model: structure, argument and register

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

Focus	What to find	Done?
Essay structure	Find the introduction, argument for, argument against and conclusion.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain why projects help?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain possible problems?	
Own view	Where does the writer give a clear personal view in a formal or neutral way?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the essay sounds formal or neutral rather than chatty.	
Development	Find one reason, example or effect that improves the argument.	

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 projects help	purpose language + examples	You are explaining what the projects are meant to teach.	One argument in favour of these projects is that they teach practical habits / For example,...
possible problems	conditional language + consequence	You are showing what may happen if the projects feel compulsory.	If environmental projects become another compulsory task, some learners may jo... / As a result,...
your own view	encouragement + choice language	You are giving a balanced recommendation about participation.	In my view, schools should strongly encourage environmental projects but not make every activity compulsory / Overall,...

6. Build a clear essay

Notice how essay phrases help you organise arguments and make your viewpoint clear.

Job	Useful essay phrases
introduce the issue	This question is not simple. / Many people believe that... / It is important to consider both sides.
present one side	One argument in favour of... is that... / For example,... / This can help...
present the other side	On the other hand,... / However,... / This may cause...
show result	As a result,... / Therefore,... / This means that...
state your view	In my view,... / I believe that... / Overall,...
conclude clearly	The best solution is... / A balanced approach would... / ...without creating unnecessary problems

7. Vocabulary and useful essay phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise, formal or neutral phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe projects	recycling campaigns / tree planting / clean-up events / local area	
describe benefits	practical habits / everyday choices / meaningful responsibility	
describe problems	compulsory task / lack of real interest / too many responsibilities	
sound essay-like	Some people believe... / On the other hand... / As a result...	
upgrade ideas	handled carefully / strongly encourage / useful and realistic	

8. Plan your own essay

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

Section	My idea	Useful language
introduction / issue		This question is not simple. / Many people believe...
argument for		One argument in favour of... / For example...
argument against		On the other hand... / This can lead to...
my view		In my view... / I believe that...
conclusion		Overall... / The best solution is...

9. Write your own essay

Write a formal or neutral essay for the task. Discuss both sides, develop your ideas and make your view clear.

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10. Self-check and peer-check

Success criteria	What to check	Self	Peer
Content	The essay discusses both sides of the issue and gives a clear view.		
Essay structure	The answer has an introduction, organised argument paragraphs and a conclusion.		
Audience and register	It sounds formal or neutral and suitable for a teacher.		
Prompt-led language	The writing uses opinion language, contrast linkers and cause/effect language accurately.		
Cohesion	Ideas connect naturally with formal linking phrases such as <i>One argument in favour of...</i> , <i>On the other hand,...</i> , <i>As a result,...</i> and <i>Overall...</i>		
Vocabulary	Topic words and precise phrases, such as handled carefully and compulsory task, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			