



Home and Local Area

Essay planning bank: improving local parks

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether local parks should receive more funding. 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:

'Parks give people space to relax.'

'They encourage exercise.'

'Other services may need money more.'

'Some parks are not used very often.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: local parks can support health, relaxation and community life Issue: whether they should receive more funding My overall view:	☐ Recently,... ☐ The question is whether... ☐ I believe that...
Argument in favour	Idea: parks give people space to relax Reason / example: Extra idea: they may encourage exercise Detail / example:	☐ One clear benefit is... ☐ As a result,... ☐ This could help...
Argument against	Concern: other local services may need money more Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ A possible concern is... ☐ Even so,... ☐ This might mean that...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: parks should be improved where they are useful and accessible Reason:	☐ In my opinion,... ☐ A balanced solution would be... ☐ This would allow...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ For these reasons,... ☐ The most sensible view is...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

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Home and Local Area

Essay planning bank: living in the city

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether living in a city is better than living in a small town. 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:

'Cities offer more opportunities.'

'There is more entertainment in cities.'

'Small towns can feel safer.'

'Cities are often noisy and expensive.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: people can have very different experiences depending on where they live Issue: whether city life is better than small-town life My overall view:	☐ Some people believe... ☐ This essay will consider... ☐ In my view,...
Argument in favour	Idea: cities can offer more opportunities Reason / example: Extra idea: there may be more entertainment and services Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This means that...
Argument against	Concern: cities can be noisy and expensive Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ However,... ☐ This can lead to...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: the best place to live depends on age, needs and personal preference Reason:	☐ I partly agree because... ☐ The best approach would be... ☐ Instead of...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ Therefore,... ☐ To conclude,...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

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Home and Local Area

Essay planning bank: community centres

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether every neighbourhood should have a community centre. 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:

'People need places to meet.'

'Young people could join activities there.'

'They can cost a lot to run.'

'Some centres are rarely used.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: community centres can provide activities, support and meeting spaces Issue: whether every neighbourhood needs one My overall view:	☐ Recently,... ☐ The question is whether... ☐ I believe that...
Argument in favour	Idea: people need places to meet Reason / example: Extra idea: young people could join activities there Detail / example:	☐ One clear benefit is... ☐ As a result,... ☐ This could help...
Argument against	Concern: centres can cost a lot to run Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ A possible concern is... ☐ Even so,... ☐ This might mean that...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: community centres should be planned around real local needs Reason:	☐ In my opinion,... ☐ A balanced solution would be... ☐ This would allow...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ For these reasons,... ☐ The most sensible view is...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

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Home and Local Area

Essay planning bank: local shops

Exam-style essay task

Your class has recently discussed whether people should support local shops instead of large shopping centres. 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:

'Local shops make areas feel friendly.'

'Money stays in the community.'

'Large centres are more convenient.'

'Local shops can be more expensive.'

Now write an essay for your teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

Planning

Use the comments to organise your essay. Add reasons, examples and a clear opinion.

Section	Ideas / Useful language	Linking phrases to tick
Introduction	Context: local shops and large shopping centres offer different advantages Issue: whether people should support local shops more My overall view:	☐ Some people believe... ☐ This essay will consider... ☐ In my view,...
Argument in favour	Idea: local shops can make areas feel friendly Reason / example: Extra idea: money may stay within the community Detail / example:	☐ One argument in favour is... ☐ For example,... ☐ This means that...
Argument against	Concern: large centres can be more convenient Why / effect: Extra point: Possible balance:	☐ On the other hand,... ☐ However,... ☐ This can lead to...
My view	My opinion: Best solution: people should support local shops when prices and choice are reasonable Reason:	☐ I partly agree because... ☐ The best approach would be... ☐ Instead of...
Conclusion	Final judgement: Closing sentence:	☐ Overall,... ☐ Therefore,... ☐ To conclude,...

Write your essay

Write an essay for your teacher. Discuss both sides, give examples and make your own opinion clear.

Essay title _____

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