



Transport and Travel

Essay: school trips abroad

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What can students learn from travelling abroad?
2. Are international trips worth the cost?
3. How can schools make trips fair and useful?

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 schools should organise more trips to other countries. 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:

'Travelling abroad teaches students about other cultures.'
'Language practice feels more real in another country.'

'Some families cannot afford expensive trips.'
'Local trips can be educational too.'

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

School trips to other countries can be exciting and educational. They may give students experiences that are difficult to create in a classroom. However, international travel can also be expensive, so schools need to think carefully before organising it.

One argument in favour of trips abroad is that they help students understand other cultures. For example, visiting another country can make language learning feel real and encourage students to be more open-minded. These experiences may also build confidence and independence.

On the other hand, not every family can afford expensive travel. If only some students can join, the trip may feel unfair. Local visits can also teach history, geography or science without the same cost or environmental impact.

In my view, trips abroad are valuable, but they should not be the only type of educational visit. Overall, schools should balance international opportunities with affordable local trips.

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 trips abroad help?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain cost and fairness?	
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 trips abroad help	cultural benefit language	You are explaining what students may gain from international travel.	One argument in favour of trips abroad is that they help students understand other cultures / For example,...
cost and fairness	cost and fairness language	You are showing why the opportunity may not suit everyone.	If only some students can join, the trip may feel unfair... / As a result,...
your own view	balanced opportunity language	You are giving a view that includes both international and local trips.	In my view, trips abroad are valuable, but they should not be the only type of educational visit / 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 travel	trips abroad / international travel / local visits / educational visit	
describe benefits	understand other cultures / language learning / confidence / independence	
describe concerns	expensive travel / afford / unfair / environmental impact	
sound essay-like	However... / On the other hand... / In my view...	
upgrade ideas	open-minded / balance opportunities / affordable local trips	

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 open-minded and expensive travel, improve the essay.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			