
Writing a two-sided argument essay

Topic: Education

Argument: *'Should parents educate their children at home?'*

Type: General

Level: ****[C2/B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument.

3 types of lessons (writing x2 / reading)

1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss *'Should parents educate their children at home?'*
- Write down 'the positives and negatives'
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page)

Free Writing #1: [give out [Outline #1](#)] Students choose 2/3 of the positives / negatives discussed and add support. Go to introduction and fill the ideas of general, specific, outline, thesis, then to conclusion. Write the essay and students check ideas against the text [they could do the Reading Exercise 2]

Guided Writing #2: [give out [Outline #2](#)] Students read the outline with the basic points and then write the essay around these ideas. Then compare to the text.

Marking Student's work:

Use marking code: www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction

2. Reading

1. Give out text and [Outline #3](#). Students read the essay and write down the key points and support in the structured outline [the bullet points relate to each piece of support]. Students check answers with [Outline #4](#).

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Should parents educate their children at home?

C. Wilson (2016)

Key vocabulary

1. Home tuition
2. 'To find it difficult to fit in' [phrase]
3. To be gifted
4. To realise your potential
5. To opt out of something
6. A harmful influence
7. Truancy
8. Adolescents
9. To be led astray
10. Peers
11. Isolated
12. To socialise
13. Drama (the subject)
14. Laboratories
15. Expertise
16. English literature
17. Disciplined
18. Preferable
19. Protection
20. A Severely disabled child

Should parents educate their children at home?

C. Wilson (2016)

In Britain parents are now choosing to educate their children at home. This is often because some children find it difficult to fit into the school system because they are especially gifted or have problems of some kind. However, despite the various arguments that have been put forward for home tutoring, this essay will argue that it is better for a child to be educated at school.

Teaching children at home has a number of advantages. Firstly, parents feel that their children will be able to realise their potential better if they can work at their own rate and concentrate on specific subjects. For example, there have been cases of children who have gone to university as young as twelve or thirteen because they are especially gifted and have opted out of the school system. Parents feel that they will also be able to protect their children from harmful influences they may encounter at school if they keep them at home. Problems such as truancy and drugs are common and adolescents particularly can be led astray by their peers. Thus, school can prevent learning to take place effectively.

However, there are also arguments in support of sending children to school rather than educating them at home. First of all, children are isolated at home; at school, on the other hand, they are able to socialise and meet people of different ages and so become increasingly independent. Children also need their peers to do subjects like sports and drama. Another important point is that schools have more resources and equipment than can be provided at home. Such as libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments. A final argument is school can offer a much wider range of subjects and expertise than parents can provide on their own. Parents would need to have a whole range of professional knowledge in science subjects like physics and chemistry to English literature and economics. It is also questionable whether parents could keep a disciplined study atmosphere at home because of the friendly family atmosphere. In sum, home tuition can affect social independence, fail to provide the correct resources and professional teaching.

On balance it seems that education at school is preferable to learning at home. It is fair to assume that home education aids concentration and protection, it also limits socialising, availability of resources and professional teaching. There may be particular cases in which home tutoring would be advantageous, such as for severely disabled children; however, for the vast majority of children there are greater benefits from going to school.

[440 words]

Outline #1

Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Introduction	
General	
Specific	
Outline	
Thesis	

Yes - write your ideas and support

1) **Point / idea:**
support

2) **Point:**
support

3) **Point**
support

No - write your ideas and support

1) **Point / idea:**
support

2) **Point:**
support

3) **Point**
support

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation	

Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Introduction	
General	Parents educate children at home
Specific	Some children find it difficult to fit in school system
Thesis	Better to be educated at school
Outline	Look at the arguments for and against

YES
<p>1. Better potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at own rate • Concentrate on specific subjects • Example: University at 12 or 13 years old (gifted home educated students)
<p>2. Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful influences • Truancy and drugs

No
<p>1. isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socialisation / meet people = independence • peers for sport
<p>2. Resources & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools have libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments.
<p>3. Expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent's professional knowledge (don't know all subjects) • control the studying atmosphere (too many distraction at home)

Conclusion	
Summary:	Home education = concentration and protection, Schools = socialising, resources, professional teaching
Thesis	Greater benefits from going to school
Recommendation	Severely disabled children = home education

Outline #3

Read the essay on: 'Should parents educate their children at home?'

Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

Introduction	
General:	
Specific:	
Outline:	
Thesis:	

Yes – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••

No – find the main points and support (bullet points)	
1) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••
2) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
3) _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••

Conclusion	
Summary:	
Thesis:	
Recommendation:	

Outline #4: ANSWERS

Introduction	
General	Parents educate children at home
Specific	Some children find it difficult to fit in school system
Thesis	Better to be educated at school
Outline	Look at the arguments for and against

YES
<p>1. Better potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at own rate • Concentrate on specific subjects • Example: University at 12 or 13
<p>2. Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful influences • truancy and drugs

No
<p>1. isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialisation / meet people = independence • Peers for sport
<p>2. Resources & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries, sports equipment and laboratories for science experiments.
<p>3. Expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent's professional knowledge • Control the studying atmosphere

Conclusion	
Summary:	It is fair to assume that home education aids concentration and protection, it also limits socialising, availability of resources and professional teaching.
Thesis	The vast majority of children there are greater benefits from going to school
Recommendation	Home education is advantageous, such as for severely disabled children