

3.7 Writing

A 'for and against' essay

I can use a range of formal language when arguing for and against an issue.

- 1 Read **UK TODAY**. How similar or different do you think the situation is in your country?

UK TODAY

Halls of residence

- Most UK universities provide accommodation for first-year students in university-owned halls of residence, on or near the campus.
- There is often a supervisor, whose job it is to maintain order and support students with everyday issues.
- Rooms in these halls are generally small but private and in most cases, bills are included in the rental price. Kitchen facilities are usually shared.
- In 2014 the average cost of renting a room in halls of residence in the UK was £123.96 per week.

- 2 Read the comments from first-year university students. Are they advantages (A) or disadvantages (D) of living in halls of residence? Compare your answers with a partner.

- 1 Freedom! (Ammar, Newcastle) ☐
- 2 It's impossible to get any studying done. (Ian, Edinburgh) ☐
- 3 I'm exhausted. There are parties every night. (Nick, Hull) ☐
- 4 There's a supervisor we can talk to if we have any problems. (Emma, Durham) ☐
- 5 Rules, rules, rules! Keep quiet, clean up, no visitors. (Ollie, Oxford) ☐
- 6 We all help each other out. I've made so many new friends. (Abigail, Liverpool) ☐
- 7 Someone stole my sausages! (Jason, Manchester) ☐
- 8 Our halls are on campus. I fall out of bed and into my lectures. (Anahita, London) ☐
- 9 My room is OK but it's tiny. (Richard, Nottingham) ☐

- 3 Read the essay and underline the advantages and disadvantages from Exercise 2 that the writer mentions. Which one is not mentioned?



Some university students prefer to live with their families until they graduate and can earn their own living. However, it is also very common for young people beginning university to choose to live together with other students in halls of residence. Although there are several potential **downsides** to this communal way of living, there are also numerous benefits.

- 10 One of the most **convincing** arguments for halls of residence is that they allow students to experience independent living in a safe place with a strong sense of community. Having never lived alone, most new students appreciate this supportive environment. In the same **way**, the presence of an official supervisor is likely to be reassuring for students and their parents. **Yet** another plus is that halls of residence are usually very convenient because they are located on, or close to, university campuses. This allows residents to save time and money.

Despite these clear advantages, there are also considerable drawbacks. The first downside is that the rooms tend to be very small and bathrooms may sometimes have to be shared. Being full of young people, halls can also be very noisy. This can make them difficult places in which to study. **Likewise**, parties and late nights are common, and can interfere with students' academic progress. Other **minuses** are that food can 'go missing' from shared fridges and cupboards, and communal kitchens are often busy and sometimes dirty.

All things **considered**, there are pros and cons to living in halls. Certainly, residents need to be self-disciplined in order to successfully balance study and social life. Personally, I **imagine** the benefits of living closely with other students outweigh the drawbacks.