

4 Read the **WRITING FOCUS**. Then find these things in the essay.

- 1 a sentence which states the writer's main opinion
- 2 a sentence that says which two aspects will be discussed
- 3 two sentences which expand the discussion by giving examples
- 4 a sentence which restates the writer's main opinion
- 5 a final comment

WRITING FOCUS

An opinion essay

Introduction

- Introduce the topic and state your main opinion.
- Say which two points of view or aspects will be discussed.

To explain the reasons for my opinion, I will explore this issue from the viewpoint of (an old person) and (a teenager).

It is my intention to examine this issue in terms of (freedom of speech) and (public safety).

This essay will look at this question from the perspective of (both) (customers) and (shop owners).

Main paragraphs

- Discuss different aspects of the issue and support the main opinion you stated in the introduction.

In terms of (public figures as role models), I believe ...

It is also important to consider this issue with regard to (public figures' rights to privacy).

Another important angle on this issue is (public safety).

From the perspective/viewpoint of (a teenager), ...

- Expand the discussion by giving examples.

Conclusion

- Use a linking phrase to introduce a conclusion.

In conclusion, ...

To sum up, ...

All things considered, ...

All in all, ...

- Restate your main opinion.

- Include a final comment.

5 Read the **LANGUAGE FOCUS**. Then join each pair of sentences in two different ways. Begin with the words in brackets.

- 1 Some people claim we should always tell the truth. Others feel there are times when it is acceptable to lie. (some people claim, while others feel)
Some people claim we should always tell the truth, while others feel there are times when it is acceptable to lie.
while some people feel ...
- 2 Some lies are told for the benefit of the liar. Others are told to avoid hurting someone else's feelings. (whereas, some lies)
- 3 Pretending to like a gift may be acceptable. Lying about your qualifications is clearly wrong. (while, pretending)
- 4 A white lie can sometimes protect someone's self-esteem. The truth may hurt them. (a white lie, whereas)

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Expressing contrast

You can use the conjunctions **while** and **whereas** as more advanced alternatives to **but** when expressing contrast. Note the position of the commas and the different word order patterns.

While/Whereas certain stories may expose unacceptable behaviour, others are really only printed to satisfy people's curiosity and make money.

Certain stories may expose unacceptable behaviour, **while/whereas** others are really only printed to satisfy people's curiosity and make money.

6 You are going to write an essay about honesty. In pairs, discuss what you would say to a friend in these situations and why. What might the consequences be for you and your friend?

- 1 A friend has cooked a meal for you. The food is tasteless and looks awful. However, they seem to be enjoying it and ask for your opinion.
- 2 You saw your friend's new girlfriend/boyfriend on a date with someone else. Your friend is clearly falling in love and asks what you think of their new partner.
- 3 A friend has spent a lot of money on a new outfit which, in your opinion, doesn't fit well and doesn't suit them. They ask if you think they should wear it for the first date they are going on tonight.

7 Complete the writing task. Use the **WRITING FOCUS** and the **LANGUAGE FOCUS** to help you.

In your English class you have been talking about telling the truth. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay. Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

Some people say that it's not always a good idea to be completely honest. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

- friends and family
- people in positions of authority
- _____ (your own idea)

Write your essay in 140–190 words.