

7.7 Writing

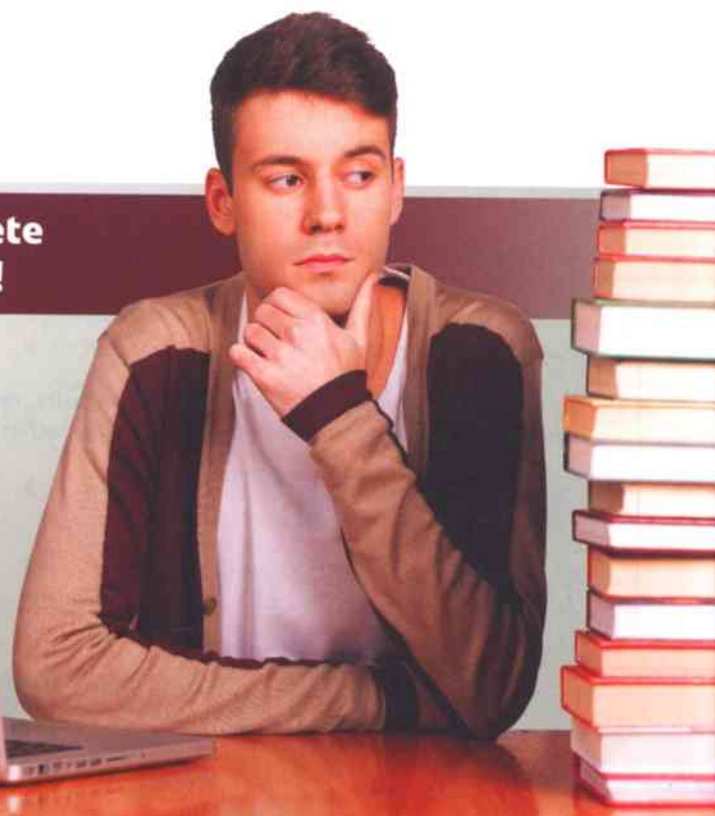
A 'for and against' essay

I can express certainty, contrast and condition using formal language.

- 1 Complete the survey by choosing the information that is true for you.

Thanks for taking the time to complete our survey. We appreciate your help!

- 1 On average, I spend 0–2 / 2–4 / 4 or more hours a day online.
- 2 When I search for something online, I rarely / sometimes / often look beyond the first few results.
- 3 I generally believe what I read or watch online. Yes. / No.
- 4 I never / occasionally / often contribute to wikis, forums and readers' comments sections.
- 5 I never / occasionally / often pay for access to online content.
- 6 I never / occasionally / often do research using (paper) reference books.



- 2 In pairs, discuss any similarities and differences in your answers.
- 3 Read the writing task and Mark's essay. What arguments for and against does he give?

The Internet makes it possible to access vast amounts of knowledge, wherever and whenever we like. Write an essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of having so much information at our disposal.

- 4 Read Mark's essay again and complete the paragraph plan. Check your answers with the WRITING FOCUS in Unit 3 if necessary.

- 1 introduction: _____ comments on the topic and a statement mentioning both sides of the issue
- 2 arguments _____ the issue
- 3 arguments _____ the issue
- 4 conclusion: a summarising statement and _____

- 5 Underline three passive structures in Mark's essay. Do they make the essay more or less formal?

1 The Internet and the vast amount of information it contains can now be accessed in an instant, from almost anywhere, at any time. In fact, because of smartphones and tablets, millions of us carry this resource with us constantly and use it on a daily or even hourly basis. **Undeniably**, this is a positive development in many ways, and **yet** there are also certain drawbacks.

2 There is no **doubt** that having online access to most of human knowledge has many advantages. **Provided** that a connection is available, anyone with basic computer skills can search, share and contribute to this huge digital library. In other words, when it comes to accessibility, information is no longer only for the privileged. Another key benefit is the easy availability of different forms of information such as text, images, film and sound on virtually every topic

imaginable. This leads to a much richer experience than was possible for most people before the Internet existed.

3 **Having** said that, there are also minuses. Since much of the information online is generated by users, there are few checks on accuracy. This means a significant amount of online data is likely to be incorrect or biased. Another potential drawback is the enormous amount of information available. It may **actually** be very hard to find exactly what you are looking for, and good analytical reading skills are often required.

4 All things considered, there are disadvantages and challenges associated with the accuracy and amount of information available online. However, to my mind, the benefits offered by this resource clearly outweigh the drawbacks.

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