

### Writing an essay introduction

#### A typical essay introduction

In this essay I will write about...

*This is a simple way to begin an essay and to introduce its content. This is perfectly acceptable for B1 level. However, it is quite clumsy and there are more 'stylish' ways to introduce a topic.*

#### How to write a strong introduction

- 1) Think of your reader. Your aim is to interest them in the introduction so that they want to read more.
- 2) Avoid referring to yourself. The best formal essays are impersonal, unless you have been specifically asked for your opinion.
- 3) Practice using a simple introduction formula which you can easily adapt for any question.
- 4) Rephrase the original statement/question. Try to find synonyms rather than copy the statement.

#### Introduction Formulas

- Some people think suggest/ claim/ believe that...
- It is generally considered/ thought/ accepted that...
- It is a widely known fact that...
- It has been suggested that...
- It can be argued that
- According to many people/ the Spanish government/ research...

#### Examples

**Q. Some people think that it should be compulsory for people to retake their driving test every 5 years. What are the advantages and disadvantages of implementing this?**

\* According to some people, it ought to be a legal obligation to retake a driving test every five years. This idea comes from the belief that drivers forget what they learn in driving school. *In this essay I will write about the advantages and disadvantages of applying this legally.*

\*\*With the high number of drivers currently on the road, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to control traffic. It is thought by some road traffic police officers that it might be advantageous to introduce a new type of driving test which would have to be repeated after a cycle of five years. Other traffic patrol officers believe that this would be disadvantageous. This essay will explore both sides of the argument.

\*\*\*It is a widely known fact that after having driven for several years, drivers begin to develop bad habits and therefore present a danger to other drivers. One solution to this problem, which has been suggested by road traffic police officers, would be to implement a cyclical driving exam, with test takers repeating their driving test every 5 years. It can be argued that this will be highly beneficial as a way to maintain control over who is on the road. The main issue here is, do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

**Sample Essay Questions:**

Create an introduction for each of these essay questions.

Next, choose a style which suits you best and use it in your next essay.

**Question 1**

- *In your English class, you have been talking about the subject of cultural heritage. 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.

**Is it a good thing that countries spend a lot of money on their heritage?**

**Question 2**

- *In your English class, you have recently had a discussion about science and young people. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.*
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Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

**Science is very important in the 21st century. How do you think it could be made more appealing to young people?**

**Question 3**

- *In your English class you have been talking about happiness. 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.

**Whether you are happy or not depends on the personality you are born with. Do you agree?**

**Question 4**

- Describe the measures you think could be taken to reduce energy consumption in Spain.

**Question 5**

- Give your opinion about the legislation on health measures against tobacco that banned smoking in all enclosed public places and some open air spaces since 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007.