

Suggestions for *For and Against Essays*

EDUCATION

1. Should schools start later in the morning?
2. Benefits of teaching children second languages early on.
3. The pros and cons of single gender classrooms.
4. Is sex education the job of parents or of the school?
5. The pros and cons of reduction of physical education hours in our current school system.
6. The pros and cons of security cameras in schools.
7. Pros and cons of a 4-day school week.
8. Should parents pay students for good grades?
9. The pros and cons of bilingual or dual language education.
10. The pros and cons of wearing a uniform.
11. The pros and cons of banning junk food in schools
12. Should sexual education be taught in high schools?
13. The education a child receives at home from having parents who are positive role models is more important than the academic education a child receives at school. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

HEALTHY ISSUES

14. Plastic surgery- vanity or need?
15. Is vegetarianism a healthy diet?
16. One of the largest parts of government expenditure is health. Some people argue that this money would be better spent on health education on the principle that prevention is better than cure. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

MORAL ISSUES

17. Should parents be allowed to choose their child's gender?
18. Pros and cons of having exotic animals as home pets?
19. Should advertising for plastic surgery be illegal?
20. Should priests be celibate?
21. What does everyone think about zoo animals? Is it a good or a bad thing?
22. Does legal prostitution reduce crime?

23. To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable? Discuss the pros and cons.
24. Some people argue that the amount of violence shown in films and on television has led to an increase in violent crimes in society. Do you agree with this argument? Should the government control what is shown on television and in the cinema?
25. Should rich countries forgive all debts for poor countries?

TECHNOLOGY

26. The pros and cons of children under the age of 10 playing video games.
27. The pros and cons of film, television, and music piracy.
28. Should kids under the age of 13 have a phone?
29. Advantages and disadvantages of digital spying on kids and teens.
30. The pros and cons of owning an electric car.
31. Have we become too dependent on technology? Discuss the pros and cons.
32. Should students be allowed to have cell phones in elementary and high schools?
33. Should we ban the sale of violent video games?
34. Some people say that the Internet is making the world smaller by bringing people together. To what extent do you agree that the Internet is making it easier for people to communicate with one another?

SPORTS

35. Should pro wrestling be considered a sport?
36. Should sport hunting be banned?
37. Many people want their country to hold the Olympics. Others believe that international sporting events bring more problems than benefits. Discuss both views and state your opinion.

FREE TIME

38. In the future, we will have more and more leisure time as machines replace many of the tasks we do at home and work. Discuss the benefits this will bring and also the problem it will cause.
39. It is said that travel broadens the mind. What can we learn by travelling to other countries? Should we first explore our own countries? Discuss.

40. In many countries tourism is a major part of the economy, but it also causes environmental damage and ruins the places it exploits. It is argued that tourists should pay an additional tax to compensate for this damage. Do you agree?
41. Should museums and art galleries be free of charge for the general public, or should a charge, even a voluntary charge, be levied for admittance? Discuss this issue, and give your opinion.

EMPLOYMENT

42. Unemployment is one of the most serious problems facing developed nations today. What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of reducing the working week to thirty five hours?
42. Most high level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women?
43. Should retirement be compulsory at 65 years of age?

GLOBALISATION

45. Differences between countries become less evident each year. Nowadays, all over the world people share the same fashions, advertising, brands, eating habits and TV channels. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
46. Television has had a significant influence on the culture of many societies. To what extent would you say that television has positively or negatively affected the cultural development of your society?

HOUSING

47. Some people like living in a house, while others prefer an apartment. Are there more advantages than disadvantages to living in a house rather than in an apartment?

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

48. The pros and cons of gay marriage.
49. Some parents choose not to have a television at home because of the influence on their children. Is this a good or a bad thing?
50. Some people believe in the traditional idea that the woman's place is in the home, while others say that idea is outdated and that women should play an

increasingly important role in the workplace of the future. What is your opinion?

51. People are now living longer than ever before and many old people are unable to look after themselves. Some people believe that it is the responsibility of families to look after the elderly, while others say governments should provide retirement homes for them where they can be looked after properly. Discuss.
52. Are women better parents than men?
53. If children behave badly, should their parents accept responsibility and also be punished?

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