**Essay Type 2: Argumentative essay**

In an argumentative essay, **you will be asked to give your opinion.** This type of questions is very similar to agree/disagree questions: ***it states two opposite views and asks you to give your opinion***.

To write an argumentative essay you need to keep the following points in mind:

* how to choose your opinion
* how to generate arguments
* how to give a band 9 answer for giving opinion question

## **Sample Question:**

2Let’s look at an example of IELTS writing task 2 question that asks you to give your opinion:

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write at least 250 words

## Choose your opinion & generate arguments



First of all, you need to **choose your opinion out of the two given ones**. For the task above, you need to choose from these opinions:

1. violence in media has a damaging effect on the society
2. violence in media doesn’t have a damaging effect on the society

Then, you have to **generate your arguments for the chosen opinion**. Let’s figure out some supporting points for each of the given opinions:



* **violence in media has a damaging effect on the society**
	+ people often copy actions they see on TV
	+ violent video games teach people that aggressiveness is normal in everyday life
	+ you have an example of the connection between violence in media and social violence
* **violence in media doesn’t have a damaging effect on the society**
	+ people act from their motives, regardless what they see on the television
	+ video games and television can reduce social violence by providing a safe outlet for aggressiveness
	+ you have never seen the connection between violence in media and social violence

For our essay, we’ll choose the second opinion.

**How to answer th.3is task?**

1. **Introduction**

Paraphrase the statement (sentence 1) and give your own opinion (sentence 2):

*These days, the amount of violence in media is growing. While some people argue that this trend will undoubtedly lead humans to dangerous future, others claim that it has no damaging effect on the society. I believe that in most cases media violence doesn't affect people's behavior.*

1. **Body paragraphs**

Describe each argument to support your opinion in a separate paragraph. Your essay should have 2-3 body paragraphs. Use relevant linking structures and academic vocabulary to write the essay.

*Firstly, I think that people act from their motives, regardless what they see on the television. That is to say, if someone intends to do harm to somebody, that is not because of watching TV or playing computer games, but due to that person's character and education. Although it is generally considered that violent media accustoms viewers to cruelty, I doubt this opinion. In my view, reasonable and intelligent people treat others humanely irrespective of what they see or hear in fictional stories.

Moreover, video games and television may even reduce social violence by providing a safe outlet for aggressiveness. In other words, truculent people may fight in virtual reality instead of evincing their combative spirit in real world. This may not only help those people, but also reduce the level of social violence in long-term perspective.

Finally, despite many claims and assumptions about negative effects of television and computer games I have never seen any proven connection between violent media and illegal activities in social life.*

1. **Conclusion**

In the conclusion paragraph briefly summarize what you have written and restate your opinion:

*Taking everything into consideration, I would say that violence in contemporary media has no substantial influence on people's behavior. Television and computers are not the main factors that shape personal character, and they can even be useful in reducing the level of violence.*

**Model answer:**

These days, the amount of violence in media is growing. While some people argue that this trend will undoubtedly lead humans to dangerous future, others claim that it has no damaging effect on the society. I believe that in most cases media violence doesn't affect people's behavior.

Firstly, I think that people act from their motives, regardless what they see on the television. That is to say, if someone intends to do harm to somebody, that is not because of watching TV or playing computer games, but due to that person's character and education. Although it is generally considered that violent media accustoms viewers to cruelty, I doubt this opinion. In my view, reasonable and intelligent people treat others humanely irrespective of what they see or hear in fictional stories.

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Finally, despite many claims and assumptions about negative effects of television and computer games I have never seen any proven connection between violent media and illegal activities in social life.

Taking everything into consideration, I would say that violence in contemporary media has no substantial influence on people's behavior. Television and computers are not the main factors that shape personal character, and they can even be useful in reducing the level of violence.

(255 words)

**Sample Question 2: Teenagers should experience professional life during their student life - Do you agree?**

**Model Answer:**

**Teenagers and Jobs**

 The motivation behind having part time jobs among teenagers is peer pressure to have a little bit of freedom and independence, and to have their own spending money. Many people argue that working can be a valuable experience for the young. However, I think, working more than about fifteen hours a week is harmful to adolescents because it reduces their involvement with school, and at the same time encourages a materialistic and expensive lifestyle.

Firstly, schoolwork and the benefits of extracurricular activities tend to go by the wayside when adolescents work long hours. As more and more teens have filled the numerous part time jobs offered by fast-food restaurants and malls, teachers have faced increasing difficulties. Educators have noticed less involvement in the extracurricular activities that many consider a healthy influence on young people. School bands and athletic teams are losing players to work, and sports events are poorly attended by working students. Those teens who try to do it all—homework, extracurricular activities, and work—may find themselves exhausted and prone to illness.

Another drawback of too much work is that it may promote materialism and an unrealistic lifestyle. Surveys have shown that the majority of working teens use their earnings to buy luxuries—computers, video-game systems, clothing, even cars. These young people, some of whom earn five thousand or more a month, do not worry about spending wisely—they can just about have it all. In many cases, experts point out that they are becoming accustomed to a lifestyle they may not be able to afford several years later. At that point, they will be hard-pressed to pay for necessities as well as luxuries.

However, many people may argue that job experience during student life may add more value to their experience. Though it is important to learn practical aspects of professional life, part-time job should have its limit in terms of time and work pressure. If gathering work experience takes most of the time, the core purpose of student life will be really difficult to fulfill. In addition, students may learn hands-on activities by joining different clubs which may encourage them to become a better human being as well.

Teenagers can enjoy the benefits of work while avoiding its drawbacks, simply by limiting their work hours during the school year. As is often the case, a moderate approach will be the most healthy and rewarding.

**Sample Essay Written by Student:**

**Lockdown situation is helpful to strengthen our family bonding - Do you agree?**

During a lockdown situation, most of the people are stuck in their homes to ensure their safety. As a result, they have more time with their families. Some people say it is good for them and some say it is not. In my opinion, it strengthens the family bond in lockdown if you spend more time together and communicate well with one another.

First, the lockdown forced many people to stay at home, which resulted in them spending more time with their families than usual. Parents who work outside at home often go to work in the morning. But in this lockdown situation, they are spending many hours with their children. Therefore, their children do not feel lonely. Parents also make homemade meals, which are far better than junk food. Spending a lot of time together is a simple process that can strengthen a relationship easily.

Additionally, good and long conversations with family members can easily emphasize the relationship between them. Actions express love, which includes listening to each other, sharing personal thoughts, and more. In a lockdown situation, family members get this chance more than any other time. When they express their thoughts with each other, it automatically improves the bonding between them. So, having good communication can be effective to improve bonding.

Although, it is arguable for many people that lockdown makes it challenging to spend the entire day with family members. This logic is irrelevant since it varies between persons. If you do not want to share your thoughts and spend good times with your family members, you cannot strengthen your relationship with them. It depends on the person if he or she wants to make the lockdown effective by cooperating with their families.

To summarize, lockdown can help a lot strengthen family bonding if it does not bother you to spend the entire day with family members. Having more interactions, keeping ego out is the best way to have a great unity between family members.

**Sample Topics for Practice:**

1. Some people argue that girls and boys should be educated separately, while others think that it is more advantageous for children to study at the same school.

What is your opinion?

2. Nowadays university education is considered very important for people's future. However, there are a lot of successful people who didn't get higher education.

Do you think that higher education is necessary to succeed in life?

Justify your opinion with relevant examples.