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# How to write an essay for Cambridge Advanced.

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# Hello and Welcome!

Welcome to your Cambridge Advanced writing guide. The steps I am going to show you are incredibly easy to implement immediately in your writing. I'm sure you will find this helpful.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Cheryl, and I have been preparing students for Cambridge exams for over 15 years now.

I'm originally from Scotland in the United Kingdom, but I now live in Spain. I've helped thousands of learners over the years ace their Cambridge exams. I'm sure I can help you too.

Let's get started!

# HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

## Introductions



### What should an introduction look like?

First you need a general opening statement which introduces the topic and ‘hooks’ the reader’s attention. You should explain briefly what the theme of the essay is using some topic vocabulary.

Secondly you should state clearly what you are going to be talking about in the essay. Make sure it is the question you have been asked; I cannot stress this enough. The most common mistake is not answering the EXACT question.

Let’s take a look at an example task and introductions.

## Example task:

Your class has watched a studio discussion on the role of music in society. You have made the notes below.

The role of music in society

- enriching people's life
- uniting social groups
- educating young children

Write an essay for your tutor discussing two of the roles of music in society in your notes.

You should explain which role is more significant, giving reasons to support your opinion

## Useful Language for Introductions

- ✓ It is often said that...
- ✓ It is a well-known fact that...
- Nowadays ..... issues are more evident than before.

- ✓ When it comes to ....., X and Y are both important factors/issues/points to consider.
- Yet how might this be achieved/resolved/carried out? I shall consider two of the proposed methods/solutions in this essay: x and y

## Example Introductions:

Remember we need -

1. A general opening statement about the topic
2. Explain what the question is and what 2 points you are going to talk about

## Bad Introduction:

The role of music in society is a hotly debated topic that divides opinion. (Is it?) Music enriches people's life and also educates young people. (Same words as question) In this essay I will say which is the most significant. (Unclear, what is significant in regard to what? If I didn't have the question written above, I would have no idea what this essay is about)

## Better Introduction:

There is little doubt that music plays a pivotal role in society today. (General opening statement) It can bring different groups of people together, provide joy and even teach values to our young. Yet with music having such a wide-ranging impact on our lives, which area does it most effect: education or social grouping? (The question and 2 points)



# HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

## Middle paragraphs



### What should paragraphs 2 + 3 look like?

1. Topic Sentence (What are you going to talk about)
2. Your point (Be objective: don't use 'I', use passives)
3. Examples and ideas to clarify/justify your point.

### What is a topic sentence?

A topic sentence is a concise statement that introduces the idea that will be discussed in a paragraph. Topic sentences tell a reader what you will be talking about in the paragraph. It is important that they are concise and direct, and also have a connection to the introduction (Introduce one of your points). Don't give your argument in the topic sentence, we are simply introducing which point we are going to talk about first.

## Bad Middle Paragraph:

It is common knowledge that education is important for everyone because it teaches us about language through music. (Topic sentence is not about the role of music, it's about education being important. Not answering the question. First point 'language through music' is included in topic sentence.) Music helps us to learn languages and new ideas. Furthermore, it can make children more creative and take in more information about different subjects. In addition, it can improve their pronunciation. (Lots of points but no reasons/evidence)

## Better Middle Paragraph:

It is undoubtedly the case that music has a significant impact on the education of the youth today. (Topic) Songs and instruments have been used for centuries to teach children language in an entertaining fashion. (Point) The catchy lyrics of children's songs can be used to hook their attention and unwittingly impart knowledge whilst playing instruments can build dexterity and creativity. (Reasons + topic vocabulary) In addition to this, research suggests that kids can improve their vocabulary and pronunciation by listening to their favourite hits. (Linking ideas)



# HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY Conclusion



## What should the conclusion look like?

1. Use a set phrase to conclude
2. Say which of the 2 points you think is most important. Here is where you can use 'I'.
3. Summarise main reason why the point is the most important (Optional) DON'T add new reasons here.

## Set phrases for conclusions

- In light of the above
- In conclusion
- In summary
- Considering all the facts



## Bad Conclusion:

In conclusion, I think that music plays an important role in both education and uniting social groups. **(You must choose 1 as the best)** Furthermore, music is also important for us culturally as it improves our lives. **(Don't add new information into the conclusion, paraphrase what you have already said)**

## Better Conclusion:

In light of the above, I believe that while music plays a crucial role in both education and social groupings, education is more significantly impacted. Children learn essential skills via listening and playing musical instruments which in turn has a positive impact on their cognitive development.



# Thank you!

I hope you found this writing guide useful.

Click on the button below to learn exactly how to do each writing task for the Cambridge Advanced exam.

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## Do You Need More Help?

Cambridge con Cheryl runs various courses designed to fully prepare you for the Cambridge Advanced exam. You can see all the courses here:

