

Expressing your opinion

When you write a composition expressing your opinion, it is important to remember the following:

- when you are asked about your opinion connected to a text, the vocabulary and ideas in the text will help you in your writings.
- You don't necessarily have to show both sides of a problem. You may discuss any aspect you wish, speculate on a particular situation or offer solutions to a problem.
- When you give your opinion, try to persuade the reader by giving facts, figures or examples. This will make your writing more forceful.
- You can even present an opposing opinion in order to point out what is wrong with it.
- The opening and closing comments should clearly present your point of view. The conclusion may offer a solution or a warning of consequences if steps are not taken to deal with a problem.

The following words and expressions are useful when expressing an opinion:

Personally	I was interested/surprised/shoked
(un)fortunately	It seems to me
undoubtedly	As I see it / From my point of view
It is obvious that / Obviously	As far as I'm concerned
It is clear that / Clearly	To be honest / Frankly
In my opinion/ Personally	I feel certain that / I am sure that
I think / feel / believe (that)	I am in favour of / I support
I (strongly) agree / disagree	I am against / I oppose / I am opposed to

EXERCISE A- Complete the following sentences, expressing your own opinion.

1. Some people say that the computer is the school textbook of tomorrow. **In my opinion**,
2. Life in Spain has changed tremendously in the last 20 years. **Personally**,
3. Joining a sports club can improve the quality of your life. **Obviously**,
4. Cars are seriously polluting the air we breath. **I strongly believe**
5. Sex education is the responsibility of parents. **I think**
6. Some European countries have compulsory national service. **I am against/in favour of**
7. Drug dealers are destroying society by destroying its children. **It is clear that**
8. People who drink alcohol and drive put other drivers at risk. **As I see it**

EXERCISE B- The following composition contains 10 typical errors often made by students. Identify the mistakes and correct them. You will then have a model composition expressing opinion.

Entertainment

To my opinion, TV has an important role to play in our lives, provided that our viewing is selective. Let me explain what do I mean.

As I see it, watch TV help make people more knowledgeable. There are many news programmes throughout the day that keep us informed of recent developments as they happen. In addition, there are severals excellents talk shows that deal with current issues.

Let's not to forget that watch TV adds greatly to our knowledge of the world around ours. Viewers can selected from a wide variety of fascinated, educational programmes, such as historical documentaries and nature programmes. A series on travel, for example, often can broaden our horizons and allow us to learn about places strange and exotic.

Undoubtedly, TV provides to us with endless hours of freely entertainment and relaxation. Films, game shows and programmes quiz are a welcome relief form the pressures of a busy day. After hours of classes and homework, there is nothing I enjoy more than watch my favourite channel : MTV.

In short, I believe that if it will be used intelligently, the TV has the potential to enrich our lifes greatly.

EXERCISE C - Choose the following topics and write a composition of 100 words.

1. One way to fight the drug problem is to start educating children about drugs from a very early age. What is your opinion?
2. Drug abuse doesn't affect the addict himself. It affects the whole of society. Give your opinion.
3. Give your opinion about the problem of drugs in your country, town or village and the way in which authorities are dealing with it.