

Read the rubric and then do the tasks. You have had a class discussion about animal-testing experiments to develop new medicines and cosmetics. Some people argue that these experiments are not ethical while others are in favour of them as long as they benefit humanity.

Write an essay (120-150 words) for the school magazine to express your opinion about whether animal-tested cosmetics should be banned, supporting it with examples.

Understanding the topic 1. What are the key words in the topic? 2. Who is going to read your essay? 3. What register will you use? 4. How many paragraphs will you write? 5. How will you start and finish your essay? | Organizing your essay

Read the essay prompt carefully and understand the question

This is the most crucial stage in essay writing. Once you know the question asked you can be able to identify the type of essay. Highlight the keywords; ‘compare,’ ‘contrast’ ‘discuss,’ ‘explain’ ‘evaluate’ and identify any limiting words, e.g., during the 21st century, within Europe, etc.

Create an outline

Before you begin your writing, create your essay outline. Jot your topic in the middle of your page, draw lines branching from the topic and write main ideas at the end of each line. From the main ideas at the end of the lines draw more lines and include your thoughts.

Another option is to use a simple outline. Write your topic at the top of your page, separate your essay into introduction, body, and conclusion. For a five paragraph essay, have an introduction, at least three main ideas, and a conclusion. Leave spaces under each idea to enable you to list smaller ideas supporting the main idea. The ‘skeleton’ will enable you to write a more organized essay.

Sample outline:

Introduction paragraph

- First sentence
- Thesis statement

Body paragraph

Write your essay: Create a thesis statement

You already have a topic and the paper outline it is time to start the writing. Begin by creating a thesis statement which must tell your reader the purpose of your essay. Read through your outline to help you create an appropriate thesis. Your thesis statement must state the topic and the main argument of your essay. The single statement must carry the overall response to the problem. Put your thesis statement in your first paragraph then make sure you refer to it several times within the essay then restate it in your conclusion.

Write the introductory paragraph

After creating a thesis statement and the body of the essay write an introductory paragraph. Make your introduction fascinating to capture the attention of your readers. Begin with a 'hook'; you can use a story, dialogue, shocking revelation, a quote or a topic summary. Make sure that your 'hook' ties with the thesis statement.

Write the body paragraphs

This is the part of the essay that you are supposed to explain, describe or argue the topic. The main ideas you wrote down on your outline becomes separate paragraphs. Each paragraph carries the main idea. The paragraph begins with an introductory sentence which carries the main idea. Supporting ideas follow suit in sentence format backed with relevant information and examples

Write the concluding paragraph

This part must be given much importance as the introduction part. The conclusion gives you a chance, to sum up, your ideas and close up the topic. Make it short; write three to five sentences. Do not introduce any new ideas at the conclusion;

summarize your prior arguments. You have the chance to restate your thesis statement and once again support your stance.

Edit your first draft

Before you consider your first draft a finished essay, do the editing and proofreading.

- Checks the general structure of your essay and make sure the correct format is used. Ensure that the strongest points appear first and at the last paragraph within the body of the essay, the others can be fixed in the middle of the body paragraph.
- Read and reread your paper to ensure the sentences are sensible and paragraphs flow into each other smoothly.
- Check the grammar, spelling, and punctuation make necessary corrections.
- Delete any irrelevant sections; improve expressions by changing the vocabulary.
- Ensure you meet the word count.