

Should children use laptops in school rather than write out their work by hand?

★ Sort the following statements into those for and those against using laptops.



Adults rarely have to write anything by hand. It is a skill we no longer need.

A lot of the school day is wasted by children writing slowly or learning how to write neatly.

It would be too expensive to give every child a laptop and the money could be spent on better sports equipment.

Some pupils have handwriting that is difficult for the teacher to read.

Electronic equipment often breaks down and would be difficult to maintain.

Children would be more motivated to write on the computer than in their books.

Children are slow at typing, so it would take them longer to complete their work.

Handwriting is an important skill to learn and is still necessary in modern life.

★ Choose one of the statements and write a paragraph to support that claim.

Is TV good for children?

- ★ Sort the following statements into those for and those against children watching TV.



Being indoors prevents children from getting fresh air and enjoying other activities outside.

Children's programmes can provide education and inform children about places they would not usually see.

Children need to have a way to relax after a busy day.

There is a lot of violence on TV, even before 9 o'clock in the evening.

More and more children are becoming overweight from lack of exercise.

TV gives parents a break from having to look after children.

TV encourages children to talk about the programmes they have seen.

There is too much advertising in between programmes and children pester their parents for things.

- ★ Choose one of the statements and write a paragraph to support that claim.

Is homework necessary?

- ★ Sort the following statements into those for and those against homework.



There is not enough time in the school day to cover all the work children need to do.

It gets in the way of other interests and activities that children do outside school.

It helps children to manage their time at home so they learn how to plan different commitments.

It helps parents to see how well their children are progressing.

There is no one available to help pupils if they are stuck on their work, which can be very stressful.

Children need time to rest and relax when they are at home.

Children learn better when working with teachers, not by doing pages of sums or writing.

It allows pupils the opportunity to consolidate work they do in class and they are more likely to remember it.

- ★ Choose one of the statements and write a paragraph to support that claim.

Should animal charities receive government funding?

★ Sort the following statements into those for and those against animal charities receiving government funding.



Animals suffer through neglect and cruelty so charities are vital for helping them.

Animals do not have a voice and are unable to defend or protect themselves.

A lot of humans are suffering throughout the world and the priority should be to support them.

People would not like an increase in taxation to fund animal charities.

If individuals want to help animals, they can give their money directly to charities.

The government should pay for education and health, which help people, rather than helping animals.

If animal charities don't have enough money, many animals will suffer and those responsible for their suffering will go unpunished.

More money could improve education so that people would know how to look after animals better.

★ Choose one of the statements and write a paragraph to support that claim.

For and against

- ★ Discuss with a partner which statements belong in which column. You may think of other statements to add to the columns.

For	Against

Planning grid

Introduction – some background information, or an explanation of the question

Arguments for

Arguments against

Conclusion – the side you think is strongest and why

Checklist

Check to see if your finished writing has these features:

- ✓ **A balanced viewpoint** where both sides have been discussed – remember, you are not trying to persuade the reader, but help them to see both sides of the debate
- ✓ **Views supported with evidence** – arguments are more credible when you can find evidence or statistics to back them up
- ✓ **Some logical connectives** e.g. therefore, however
- ✓ **Present tense**
- ✓ **A clear structure** an introductory paragraph, a paragraph with arguments for, one with arguments against and a conclusion that answers the question in the title