

Writing

Discursive writing – arguing for and against

- 1 Do you think childhood is the best time of your life? Discuss as a class.
- 2 Read about the pros and cons of childhood. Which words and phrases in the box can replace the underlined words in the text?

in my opinion	Another point is that
For instance	One advantage is that
In conclusion,	All things considered
Finally,	One disadvantage is that
In fact,	on the other hand
Moreover,	pros and cons

- 3 There are four paragraphs. What is the purpose of each one?
- 4 Match a pro with a con. Join them with:
On the one hand / On the other hand.

Pros
1 don't have to go to work
2 have free time
3 don't have to do housework
4 pay less for things
Cons
a need parents' permission to go out
b don't have enough pocket money
c have to go to school every day
d have to do homework and take exams

- 5 Work with a partner and discuss *one* of these subjects and make a list of the pros and cons.
 - 1 Boarding school.
 - 2 Getting older.
 - 3 Having children when young.
- 6 Use your ideas from 5 to write four paragraphs on your chosen subject. You can use the phrases from 2 to help you. Read your essay aloud to the class. Do they agree with your conclusions?

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Pros and Cons

Childhood – Is it the best time of life?

- 1 Some people say that childhood is the best time of your life. However, being a child has both advantages and disadvantages.
- 2 On the plus side, you have few responsibilities. For example, you don't have to go to work, pay bills, or do the shopping or housework. This means you have plenty of time to do whatever you want – watch TV, play video games, go out with friends, play sports, or pursue other hobbies. In addition to this, public transport, cinema, and sports centres cost much less for children. All in all, being a child can be a fun time of life.
- 3 However, for every plus there is a minus. For one thing, you have to spend all day, every day, Monday to Friday, at school and this inevitably means that you have to do homework and take exams. What is more, although you have free time, you are rarely allowed to do whatever you want. You need your parents' permission before going out with friends, staying out late, or going to parties. It can sometimes seem that they want to stop you having any fun. Last of all, things may be cheaper for children, but that doesn't mean they are cheap. Children depend on getting pocket money and not all parents choose to, or are able to give generously. In reality some children can't afford to do much at all.
- 4 To sum up, despite its lack of responsibility, I believe that childhood is definitely not the best time of life. On the one hand, children may have free time, but conversely they do not have the freedom to choose what to do with it. They can feel pressurized both by parents and the education system. However, the increased responsibility that comes with age creates its own pressures, too.

