Pros & Cons Essay

A pros and cons essay is an essay that introduces a topic and describes the pros and cons of the subject of that topic. The topic or subject could be anything from owning a pet running your own business. Pros and cons essays are ideal for giving readers insight into both sides of a subject.

How to write a Pros & Cons essay

1. Make a list of all the pros and cons you can think of regarding your topic.
2. Think of a title for your pros and cons essay. The title can include the words pros and cons, as in, "The Pros and Cons of Owning a Home," or can be titled something like, "Gun Control; Yes or NO?" The title should clearly identify the topic of your paper and indicate that the essay will take a pros and cons approach.
3. Write an opening that introduces the topic of your pros and cons essay. The introduction should give a brief overview of the subject and present a thesis statement that tells your audience your goal, or what you intend to prove or disprove, by the end of the essay.
4. The body of the essay should present the pros and cons. Try presenting the argument for pros first, then follow with the argument for the cons.
5. Lastly, weighing both the sides write a powerful conclusion. Make a determination depending on the material you presented along with your suggestions

**Exercise:**

 *“Childhood is the best time of your life.” Write a four-paragraph essay highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of being a child. Make a determination by the end of your essay: Is childhood the best time of your life, or not?*

The following outline and list of linking words might help you:

**Thesis:** Being a child has both advantages and disadvantages.

**Pros:**

1. **Very few responsibilities.**
* you don’t have to go to work,
* pay the bills,
* or do the shopping,
* cooking,
* or cleaning.
1. **Less costs for children.**
* public transport
* cinema
* sports centres
1. **Therefore …**
* you have plenty of free time to …
* watch TV
* play on the computer
* go out with friends
* play sports

**Cons:**

1. **Spending all day at school.**
* studying
* doing homework
* taking exams
1. **Not being allowed to do whatever you want.**
2. **Things are still expensive.** (Not enough pocket money).

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases**
• **To list points:**
**Firstly, First of all, In the first place, To begin/start with, Secondly, Thirdly, Finally**
• **To list advantages:**
**One/Another/A further/An additional (major) advantage of… is … The main/greatest/first advantage of… is …**
• **To list disadvantages:**
**One/Another/ A further/An additional (major) disadvantage/drawback of. The main/greatest/most serious/first disadvantage /drawback of… Another negative aspect of…**

• **To add more points to the same topic:**
in addition (to this), furthermore, moreover, besides, apart from, what is more, as well as, not to mention (the fact) that, also, not only … but also/as well, both … and, There is another side to the issue/question/argument of…
• **To make contrasting points:**
on the other hand, however, still, yet, but, nonetheless, nevertheless, even so,
it may be said/argued/claimed that,…
others/many people oppose this viewpoint/strongly disagree…, claim/feel/believe this argument is incorrect/misguided
although, though, even though, while, whilst, whereas, despite/in spite of (the fact that), regardless of the fact that
Opponents of … argue/believe/claim that…
The fact that… contradicts the belief/idea that…
While it is true to say that…, in fact…
While/Although …, it cannot be denied that…

**Useful expressions and linking words/phrases: Conclusion expressing opinion directly**
In conclusion,
On balance,
All things considered,
Taking everything into account/consideration,
To conclude,
To sum up,
All in all,

…………………………… it is my belief/opinion that …
………………………….. I (firmly) believe/feel/think that …
…………………………… I am convinced that …
…………………………… I am inclined to believe that …
…………………………… I (do not) agree that/with …