

## WRITING AN ESSAY

An essay consists of several paragraphs about a certain topic. There are many different types of essay, but most of them, except Formal and Informal letters follow a similar lay out, that is:

### 1. THE OPENING

The opening is a general presentation of the topic in one or two sentences. Try to start your essays with a presentation that may draw the reader's attention and interest. Here are some basic ideas:

#### A. Begin with a short anecdote about real or imaginary events.

*Phil was driving along a country road when suddenly he saw a lorry overtake a slow car and then crash into a bus. Phil immediately picked up his mobile phone.*

#### B. Begin the essay with one or more questions which are not meant to be answered by the reader, but to move him/ her to come in contact or start thinking about the topic (Rhetoric Questions).

*Have you ever looked at an exam paper and known that you know the answer to a particular question, but just can't remember it at that moment? How many times have you known the answer to really difficult questions which weren't in an exam, but forgot the answer to a really easy one? Have you ever been "tricked" by a question in an exam which in your opinion was specially designed to make students fail?*

#### C. Begin referring to statistics or the results of a survey.

*According to last results from a survey carried out in UK by a well-known mobiles phones company, there is an average number of two of mobiles phones in a household, which means that the number of mobiles phones in UK is reaching the number of inhabitants.*

#### D. Begin with an unidentified pronoun to arise the reader's curiosity.

*It can drive you crazy, yet it could also save your life. You often spend a lot of money on it, but sometimes it saves both time and worry. Some people are even addicted to it. What is it? The mobile phone, of course!*

### 2. THE BODY

The body consists of one or more paragraphs which expand on the topic.

When you were preparing to write the essay you brainstormed for ideas. Then you put these ideas into groups following a logical order. Use these groups of ideas to write the body of your essay. Each group of ideas will become a separate paragraph.

### 3. THE CONCLUSION

The conclusion consists of a paragraph made up of one to three sentences that summarise, express a conclusion reached throughout the exposition of ideas in the body or just express our personal opinion on the issue. It should always leave the reader with a strong impression.

*Without any doubt, the mobile phone is an amazing invention. In my opinion, it can improve your life, whether you are sixteen or sixty. Although it does have some minor disadvantages I strongly believe that it has, and will continue to make, a positive contribution to modern life.*