

## How to write an essay ~Reading and Writing assignment~

### Day 1: How to Write an Essay ①

#### 1. Review: Paragraph writing

Read the paragraph and answer the questions:

Robots are helpful to humans in many ways. Firstly, they can be used for household work. They can clean floors, cook meals, and cut lawns. Secondly, they are playing a more and more important role in the world of medicine. For example, there is a robot which helps elderly people walk in rehabilitation programs. Thirdly, robots are helpful in factories on construction sites. They will build cars, houses, and buildings. Robots will become more central to our lives in the future.

1. What is the main topic of this paragraph?

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2. How many main supporting ideas/points are in the paragraph?

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3. What transition words are used in this paragraph?

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## 2. Essay Structure:

An essay is made of several paragraphs that are connected:

### 1. Introduction

- a. Introduces the subject, topic, or theme
- b. Briefly summarize your 3 topic sentences/main ideas

### 2. Body #1

- a. Explains the first main idea
- b. Has support points, provides an example or evidence, explains why the example or evidence is important

### 3. Body #2

- a. Explains the second main idea
- b. Has support points, provides an example or evidence, explains why the example or evidence is important

### 4. Body #3

- a. Explains the third main idea
- b. Has support points, provides an example or evidence, explains why the example or evidence is important

### 5. Conclusion

- a. Restates the subject
- b. Summarizes the 3 topic sentences in a different way

## 2-1. Rearrange the following paragraphs to create an essay:

**A.** It seems that no matter where you go these days, you are sure to see someone holding a bottle of water. Global consumption of bottled water doubled between 1999 and 2004, reaching 154 billion liters annually. A survey of why people drink bottled water found that most drink it because they are worried about the safety of tap water, or because they think it tastes better than tap water. However, some critics of bottled water cite various reasons why bottled water may not be as wonderful as some might think.

**B.** Claims that bottled water tastes better are also questionable. There have been several blind taste tests, in which people drank various types of water and ranked them in terms of taste without knowing which water was which. In many cases, those trying the waters turned out to prefer tap water. For example, ABC's *Good Morning America* program found that 12% of viewers preferred one kind of bottled water and 19% preferred another kind, but 45% liked New York City tap water best. Yet even though it doesn't really appear to taste better, bottled water often costs more than 100 times as much as tap water.

**C.** It will take the passing of time to assess whether bottled water is a passing trend or a permanent part of the world's beverage consumption. Drinking water is certainly a healthy habit that should not be stopped. However, tap water may be an equally safe and delicious choice for bottled water, if not more so. Moreover, reusable containers would be a much kinder option for the environment. It is time for consumers to think before they drink.

**D.** The bottles themselves are another reason to rethink this trend. A *National Geographic* magazine article cites the following troublesome figures. First, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year. That is a lot of plastic waiting to become garbage as soon as the water is drunk in most cases. About 86 percent of plastic water bottles in the U.S. become garbage. Moreover, this garbage is destined to be with us for a long time. Plastic debris in the environment can take between 400 and 1,000 years to degrade, according to the magazine.

**E.** While consumers of bottled water believe they are drinking a safer, purer beverage than what they can get at their own kitchen sink, this may not necessarily be true. In the U.S. and some other countries, bottled water has less strict standards and less frequent tests for bacteria than those required of tap water. For example, in the U.S., bottled-water plants must test for one kind of bacteria only once a week, but city water must be tested 100 times or more a month. In March 1999, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) published the results of a four-year study in which they tested more than 1,000 samples of 103 brands of water. They found that about one-fifth of the waters tested contained industrial chemicals or chemicals used in manufacturing plastic.

A → (            ) → (            ) → (            ) → (            )

## 2-2. Read the essay and answer the questions:

**A.** There is a common saying that "a dog is man's best friend", but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and they are easy to care for.

**B.** In the first place, many people enjoy the companionship of cats. Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch!

**C.** In the second place, cats are civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, but owners can easily make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

**D.** Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care. Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

**E.** Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.

1. What is the main idea of the essay?

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2. What is the main idea of paragraph B (body #1)?

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3. What are the supporting points of paragraph B (body #1)?

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4. What is the main idea of paragraph C (body #2)?

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5. What are the supporting points of paragraph C (body #2)?

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6. What is the main idea of paragraph D (body #3)?

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7. What are the supporting points of paragraph D (body #3)?

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