

HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE

STRUCTURE

Articles are written to give information (e.g. news reports) or express opinions (e.g. argumentative articles). They can be either formal or informal depending on the audience they are addressed to and the topic they deal with. A good article consists of:

- a) a catchy **headline** which suggests the topic of the article that follows
- b) an interesting **introduction, in which you are talking about the problem/ topic you are going to deal with**
- c) a **main body** consisting of two or more paragraphs in which the topic is presented in detail; and
- d) a **conclusion** which gives an appropriate ending to the article, e.g. a brief summary of the article, or possible solutions to the problem you discussed.

TIPS FOR WRITING AN ARTICLE

- ✓ The title should be catchy
- ✓ The style of the article depends on the audience (youth magazine, scientific journal, ...)
- ✓ address the reader in second person (you), if the style is not too formal
- ✓ Ask direct questions to get the reader`s attention
- ✓ Avoid using simplistic adjectives (good, nice, bad, etc.). Always try to use more sophisticated vocabulary instead, (*splendid, gorgeous, awful, etc.*)
- ✓ use linking devices
- ✓ use opinion adverbs to introduce your points (obviously, basically, surprisingly, personally, unfortunately, interestingly, ...)

EXAMPLE

A youth magazine has invited its readers to give their opinions by writing an article on bullying. Specifically, the readers are asked to:

- describe how serious a problem bullying is in schools where they live
- suggest what can be done to stop bullying

The happiest days of your life?

School days should be a happy time in a young person`s life. What can make people`s lives a misery during that time then? There is one obvious answer to this question: Bullying.

Unfortunately, bullying is quite common in schools where I live. It can affect students of any age, and both boys and girls. A friend of mine had a very negative experience at school last year as an older boy sometimes used to post nasty messages about him on Facebook. Obviously, my friend felt very upset about this and it affected his self-confidence. Some days, he didn`t want to come to school at all.

What can people do to stop this problem? Personally, I think teachers need to be aware that bullying may be happening in their classes and be very strict when they have a case of bullying. Another thing teachers could do is prepare lessons to talk about the problem with their pupils, which might make bullies realize how badly they hurt their victims. Furthermore, students – if they find out that a classmate is being bullied – should support them as much as possible and inform the teacher.

Bullying can be a real nightmare. However, as I just argued, there are things we can do to prevent it. Hopefully, one day students will be able to go to school without fear of being bullied.

A.) All of the `tips for writing an article` have been followed in the article. Look for `evidence` in the text and highlight the corresponding phrases.

1. use a catchy title to get people interested
2. introduction: introduce the topic you are going to deal with
3. main body: make paragraphs, each dealing with one bullet point
4. ask direct questions to get the reader`s attention
5. use opinion adverbs to prove your points (surprisingly, obviously, ...)
6. use linking devices
7. semi-/ informal style: give a real-life example or talk about personal experience

B.) Fill the gaps with the correct opinion adverbs from the box

surprisingly	obviously	basically	unfortunately	personally
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_____, bullying is quite common in many schools.

_____, there are three types of bullying: physical, verbal and social.

_____, people who are getting bullied feel really upset by it.

_____, research shows that teachers notice only one in 25 bullying incidents.

_____, I think teachers could do more to stop bullying.

DO IT YOURSELF

It is common knowledge that teenage obesity is a major problem in the US. One reason for that are young people`s unhealthy eating habits, that is their preference for fast food. A Viennese youth magazine has decided to take a closer look at the phenomenon in Austria. Hence, it has invited students to write an article on the topic, dealing with the following bullet points:

- *Describe the role fast food plays among people your age (their eating habits).*
- *Explain why you think fast food is so popular among teenagers.*
- *Suggest possible ways to make students eat more healthily.*

Write 200 words. Don't forget to structure your article nicely (cf. STRUCTURE!). Also, study the 'tips for writing an article'.



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