FOR AND AGAINST ESSAYS

A good essay of this type should consist of:

• An introductory paragraph in which you state the topic (you talk generally about the topic without giving your opinion).

• A main body in which the points for and the points against, along with your justification, appear in two separate paragraphs.

• A closing paragraph in which you give either your opinion or a balanced consideration of the topic.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR OPINION IN THE INTRODUCTION (don't use words such as:

'I think', 'I believe', etc.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

• Make a list of the points for and against a topic BEFORE you start writing.

• Write well-developed paragraphs in which the points you present are supported with justification (reasons or examples). Your paragraphs should have more than one sentence.

• Do not use informal style or strong language (I firmly believe)

• Begin each paragraph with a TOPIC SENTENCE which summarises what the paragraph is about.

• You can end a 'for and against' essay by giving a balanced consideration of the points on the topic or by giving your opinion (for example by expressing whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages or vice versa).

OPINION ESSAYS

Opinion essays are formal. They require your opinion on a topic which must be clearly stated and supported by reasons. It is necessary to include the opposing viewpoint in another paragraph.

A successful opinion essay should have:

• An introductory paragraph in which you state the topic AND YOUR OPINION.

• A main body which consists of 2 or more paragraphs. Each paragraph should present a separate viewpoint supported by your reasons. Another paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint and reasons may be included.

• A conclusion in which you testate your opinion using different words.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

• First decide if you agree or disagree with the subject of the topic and make a list of your points and reasons.

• Write well-developed paragraphs consisting of more than one sentence.

• Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.

• Use linking words.