WRITING: SHOULD IT BE BANNED?

B2 Writing Lesson

INITIAL WRITING PROMPT

Songs with violent lyrics can influence the way people think and behave.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“Songs with violent lyrics make people more violent and should be banned.”

Write one well-organized paragraph. Give your opinion and support it with three reasons.

Your paragraph should include: • A clear topic sentence • Three supporting reasons • Listing expressions: First, Second, Finally • Supporting details or explanations • A clear concluding idea

1. WHAT IS A TOPIC SENTENCE?

A topic sentence is usually the first sentence of a paragraph.

It tells the reader: • What the paragraph is about • What the writer's main idea or opinion is

The other sentences in the paragraph should support and explain the topic sentence.

Example:

It is unlikely that a ban on violent music will work for several reasons.

This is a good topic sentence because it tells us the main idea of the paragraph.

The rest of the paragraph should explain WHY the writer thinks a ban will not work.

2. WHICH SENTENCES ARE GOOD TOPIC SENTENCES?

Read the options:

a. Music is something that everyone loves.

b. I like this type of music.

c. It is unlikely that a ban will work for several reasons.

d. This music does not make people more violent.

e. There are at least three problems with banning this type of music.

The best topic sentences are:

✓ c. It is unlikely that a ban will work for several reasons.

✓ e. There are at least three problems with banning this type of music.

Why?

Because both sentences introduce a clear main idea and prepare the reader for the reasons that will follow.

3. HOW DO WE ORGANIZE OUR IDEAS?

When we give several reasons, we need to organize them clearly.

Use:

FIRST → Reason 1

SECOND → Reason 2

FINALLY / LASTLY → Reason 3

Example:

First, banning this type of music may make it more attractive to young people.

Second, there is no clear proof that violent music makes people violent.

Finally, people can easily find this type of music on the Internet.

IMPORTANT:

In formal writing, these expressions are especially common:

First, Second, Finally, Lastly,

“First of all” is more common in everyday conversation.

Formal writing: First, the music may become more attractive.

Conversation: First of all, I think we need to look at the problem carefully.

4. HOW TO BRAINSTORM

Before writing your paragraph, DON'T start writing immediately.

First, decide whether you agree or disagree.

Then, think of THREE reasons.

Use this simple plan:

OPINION: I agree / disagree with the statement that...

REASON 1: First, ...

REASON 2: Second, ...

REASON 3: Finally, ...

5. BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLE

Question:

“Songs with violent lyrics make people more violent and should be banned.”

Opinion:

I disagree with the statement.

Reason 1: First, there is not enough evidence that violent songs directly cause violent behavior.

Reason 2: Second, people listen to music for many different reasons, such as entertainment or relaxation.

Reason 3: Finally, banning music would be difficult because people can easily access songs online.

6. TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO A PARAGRAPH

Now connect your ideas and add explanations.

Example:

I disagree with the statement that songs with violent lyrics make people more violent and should be banned. First, there is not enough evidence that violent songs directly cause violent behavior. People may listen to this type of music because they enjoy the music, not because they support violence. Second, music can be a form of entertainment and self-expression, and listening to a

song does not necessarily influence a person's behavior. Finally, banning violent music would be difficult because people can easily find and download songs on the Internet. For these reasons, I do not think that songs with violent lyrics should be banned.

7. THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF YOUR PARAGRAPH

TOPIC SENTENCE ↓ Your opinion + main idea

FIRST ↓ Reason 1 + explanation/example

SECOND ↓ Reason 2 + explanation/example

FINALLY ↓ Reason 3 + explanation/example

CONCLUDING SENTENCE ↓ Restate your main opinion

9. USEFUL B2 WRITING EXPRESSIONS

Giving your opinion:

• I agree with the statement that... • I disagree with the statement that... • I strongly believe that... • In my opinion, ... • From my perspective, ...

Introducing reasons:

• First, ... • Second, ... • Finally, ... • There are several reasons for this. • One important reason is that... • Another reason is that... • A final reason is that...

Giving explanations:

• This is because... • This means that... • For example, ... • As a result, ... • Therefore, ...

10. YOUR TURN
11.

WRITING TASK

Songs with violent lyrics make people more violent and should be banned.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write ONE well-organized paragraph.

PLAN:

1. Opinion: I agree / disagree with the statement that

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2. Reason 1: First, _____

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3. Reason 2: Second, _____

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4. Reason 3: Finally, _____

CHECK YOUR WRITING

Before you finish, check:

□ Did I clearly state my opinion?

□ Did I write a clear topic sentence?

□ Did I give THREE reasons?

□ Did I use First, Second, and Finally?

□ Did I explain my reasons?

□ Did I avoid “At first” and “At last” for listing ideas?

□ Did I use complete sentences?