**How to Write a For & Against Essay**

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| Teenagers have always spent a lot of time watching television. **As a result**, there is growing concern about the influence of television. | **Introduction**   1. State a fact – **use the perfect tenses** 2. Introduce your topic |
| **On the one hand**, it is thought that watching television can cause damage. They claim that repeatedly watching violence on TV has a negative effect on many teens and can cause violent behavior. **Moreover**, they worry that some teens spend more time watching television than socializing with their friends. | **Disadvantages**   * Causes violence * No time to socialize   - **First sentence should include a gerund.** |
| **On the other hand**, if teenagers watch television, it is likely that they will learn a lot of useful information. **For example**, there are educational programs about a wide variety of topics; from the environment to technology. **In addition**, there are programs especially for teenagers that deal with important issues **such as** friendship, trust and drugs. Such programs can help teenagers understand these issues better. | **Advantages**   * Educational * Addresses teen issues   - **First sentence should include the 1st conditional.** |
| **In conclusion**, although violence on TV or watching too much TV may be harmful, I believe that the benefits of television are greater than any harm it might cause. However, ultimately each parent must choose what is best for his or her own teenager. | **Conclusion**   1. Add concluding comments 2. State your opinion if asked 3. Throw it back to the reader |

**Things To Remember**

1. **Separate Your Paragraphs.** – Put aline between each paragraph
2. **Do NOT state your opinion at the beginning -** You can state your opinion at the end of the essay if the question asks for it or says that you may do so.
3. **Don’t repeat your argument** - Make sure that you have two arguments for (advantages) and two arguments against (disadvantages).
4. **Provide Examples -** You must provide examples to support your arguments.
5. **Use Connectors -** The second, third and fourth paragraph should each start with a connector. You should use additional connectors throughout the essay as well.