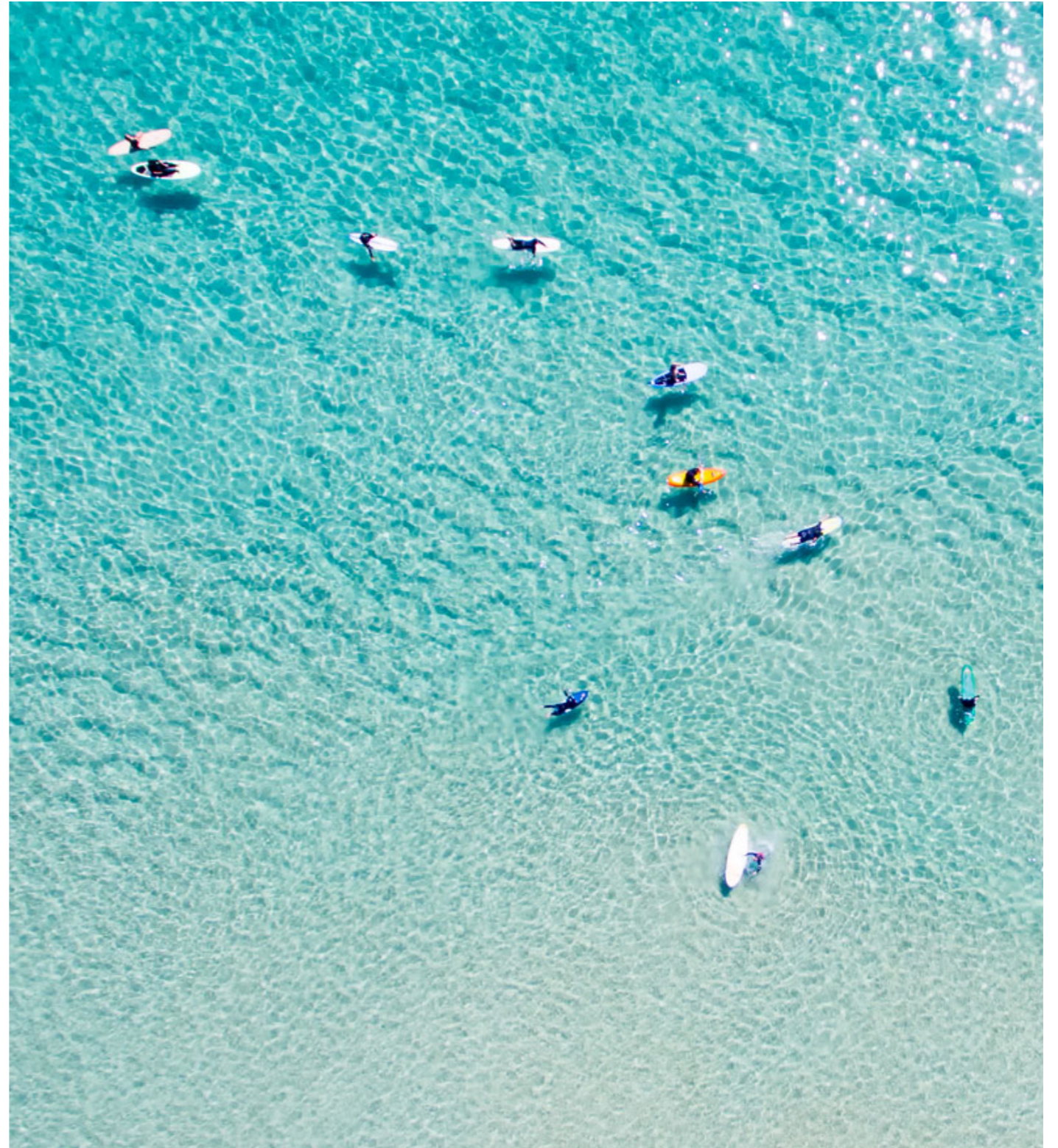


Writing a Series of Paragraphs

To Support Your Opinion



Planning Before You Write



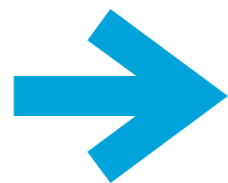
Read the topic carefully. Make sure you understand precisely what the question is asking.



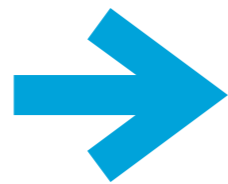
Form an opinion.
You **MUST** choose a side.



Brainstorm your ideas using a graphic organizer.



List reasons for your opinion



List **EXAMPLES** and **FACTS** to back them up!

The Structure

Introduction

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Conclusion

Introduction

Introduction

The introduction paragraph explains your answer to the question.

#1: Introduce and explain the topic.

#2: Pick ONE side.

#3: Identify 3 reasons why your answer to the question is correct.

Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?

In today's modern society, many teenagers feel as if having a cellphone is a necessity. Everywhere you go, there is constant texting and talking on cellphones. Why do teenagers of today require a cellphone? I do not believe that cellphones should be a necessity in teenagers' lives because they are a distraction, they cost a fortune, and they can be misused in several ways.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1 explains your first reason why your opinion to the question is correct

#1: Start with a transition word (First, Firstly, To begin...)

#2: Use an example, a comparison, or a series of details to explain why your opinion is correct.

To begin, cellphones are becoming more developed, with far more abilities and applications than before. Cellphones can now be used for texting, talking, going on social media, taking pictures/videos and much more. Cellphones are becoming an alternative to computers and teens are beginning to have them on hand at all times. The average teen uses his/her cellphone for approximately 8 hours a day. With cellphones being used to much, when do teens have the time to focus on school work and their families? Cellphones are a major distraction in the typical lives of most teens.

Helpful Tip

Your opinion must be based on reasonable facts BUT you can make up the details you write about!

The average teen uses his/her cellphone for approximately 8 hours a day.

This is false!
However, you are allowed to make up information and facts as long as it is reasonable.

Why? Because your writing skills are being evaluated, not your knowledge of the topic!

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 2 explains your second reason why your opinion to the question is correct

#1: Start with a transition word (Secondly, Also, Next...)

#2: Use an example, a comparison, or a series of details to explain why your opinion is correct.

Secondly, with the increasing number of applications and uses for cellphones, the cost of using them and maintaining them is increasing. The average bill of one cellphone comes up to at least \$95 a month. This totals up to more than \$1000 a year. The money spent on cellphones could be used towards a teenager's education or another worthy cause. For this reason, I believe cellphones are a waste of money.

Helpful Tip

Add fluency to your sentences by using connecting phrases like:

- For this reason I believe...
- This is true because...
- Obviously, no one could doubt that...

For example:

For this reason, I believe cellphones are a waste of money.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3 explains your third reason why your opinion to the question is correct

#1: Start with a transition word (Thirdly, Also, Finally...)

#2: Use an example, a comparison, or a series of details to explain why your opinion is correct.

Finally, the biggest disadvantage of having a cellphone is that they can be misused fairly easily. Cellphones are easy to store in your pocket and are convenient to cheat on tests and to cyberbully other teenagers. Teenagers know every aspect and function of their phones from where to store cheat notes, to how to text others without their own number being shown. Cellphones allow teenagers to get away with unethical acts and can be a danger if used with the wrong intentions.

Conclusion

Conclusion

The final paragraph concludes your essay by restating your opinion and summarizing why your opinion is correct.

#1: Start with a transition word (In conclusion, To summarize, To conclude...)


#2: Restate your opinion.

#3: Summarize your reasons.

In conclusion, cellphones have many advantages but their disadvantages outweigh their benefits. Cellphones are not a necessity to teenagers because they are a huge distraction in their lives, they are very costly, and they enable teenagers to be unethical citizens.

Checklist

Writing a Series of Paragraphs: Checklist

The Task	 Do I...	Prove it!
Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Focus on Key Words ■ Clearly AGREE or DISAGREE 	
Rough Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use a graphic organizer? ■ Jot point form notes? 	
Writing the Series of Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Directly relate my response to the prompt? ■ Have a thoughtful progression of ideas? 	
First Paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Have a clear, consistent opinion? ■ Identify key points that are thoughtfully chosen? 	
Second / Third Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop my position with specific supporting details? ■ Include examples/proof illustrating my point? 	
Last Paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Restate my Opinion? ■ Summarize my main points? ■ Include a final thought – connection to community/ world? 	
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write at least 3 paragraphs? ■ Write in complete sentences? ■ Write consistently in first or third person? ■ Check grammar, spelling, punctuation for correctness? 	