

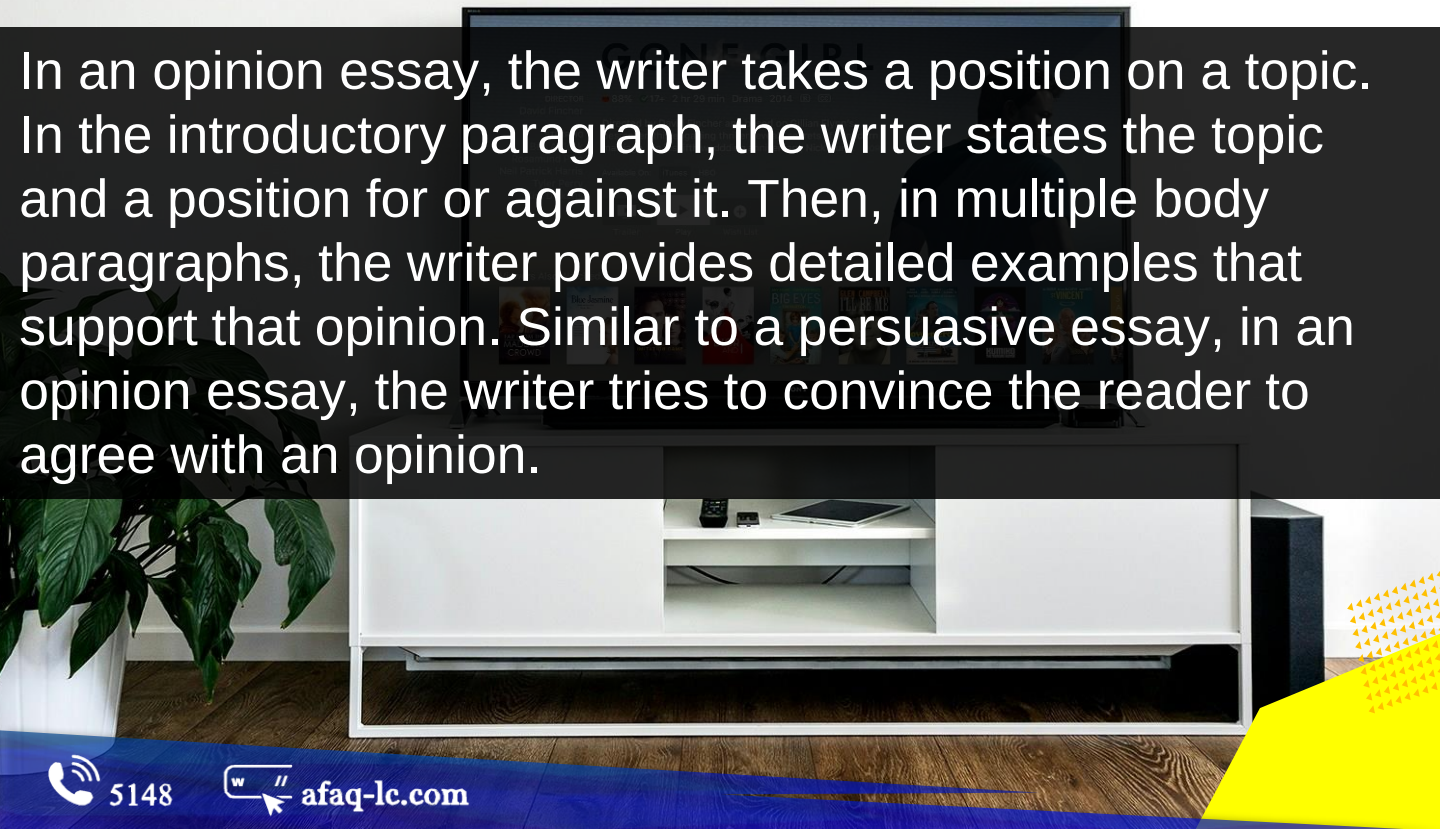
StartUp 7

Writing

Unit3 – Lesson5

Page38

READ ABOUT OPINION ESSAYS.



In an opinion essay, the writer takes a position on a topic. In the introductory paragraph, the writer states the topic and a position for or against it. Then, in multiple body paragraphs, the writer provides detailed examples that support that opinion. Similar to a persuasive essay, in an opinion essay, the writer tries to convince the reader to agree with an opinion.

Have Ss skim the text again and do the task. Then check the answers in class.

READ THE MODEL. WHAT IS THE WRITER'S POSITION ON CREATIVITY?



The Creativity Gene: Truth or Myth?

Many people believe that creativity is an inherited quality. You are either born with a natural inclination towards creativity, or not. But anyone can be taught creativity, as long as they are willing to work at it.

Albert Einstein said, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." Similarly, Malcolm Gladwell theorized that anyone who does something for 10,000 hours will become an expert. This "10,000-hour rule" might be oversimplified, but it makes an important point: If you put in enough quality practice, you can learn to do anything well. In turn, mastering a skill lets you experiment and improvise. My brother, a graphic designer, is one example. James has loved drawing ever since he was a child. He wasn't a child prodigy, but because he enjoyed drawing so much, he spent a lot of time doing it. He studied other people's drawings and gradually refined his skills. Today, many companies hire him to design their websites or product logos.

Businesses often invest in the idea that creativity can be taught. My company ran some so-called creativity workshops to help people start thinking outside the box. From one such workshop, I learned that 98% of children have a high level of creativity, but as they get older, this percentage drops. In other words, we are all born creative, but gradually we forget how to be creative. If we have all unlearned creativity, cannot we learn it again, with focus and training?

It is true that creativity often runs in families—especially "showbiz" families. Singer Enrique Iglesias is the son of Julio Iglesias, also a famous singer. Jaden and Willow Smith, who are both singers and actors, are the children of actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith. So, one might argue that there is a gene for creativity. But I believe there's another explanation. People whose parents are artists are more likely to consider the arts as a valid career choice for themselves. And also, they are more likely to be supported by their parents in pursuing such a career.

Many people may think that if you are not born creative, there is no point in trying to become creative. But I disagree. By approaching creativity as a skill that can be learned and by understanding that creativity is something useful in any job, we can really free ourselves to pursue more interesting, fulfilling, and yes, creative lives.

Have Ss scan the text again and do the task. Then check the answers in class.

D Read the model again. Take notes in the chart.

Topic: Can creativity _____ ?

Position 1: Yes

Supporting examples:

1. – Einstein's quote
   – Gladwell's _____
   – my brother's career as a _____
2. – creativity _____ at businesses
   – _____ of children are creative, but the number drops as they get older
3. – children whose _____ are in the arts probably get more support / encouragement

Position 2: No

Supporting examples:

1. – creativity runs in families: the _____ Enrique Iglesias, the _____ Jaden and Willow Smith

Writing tip

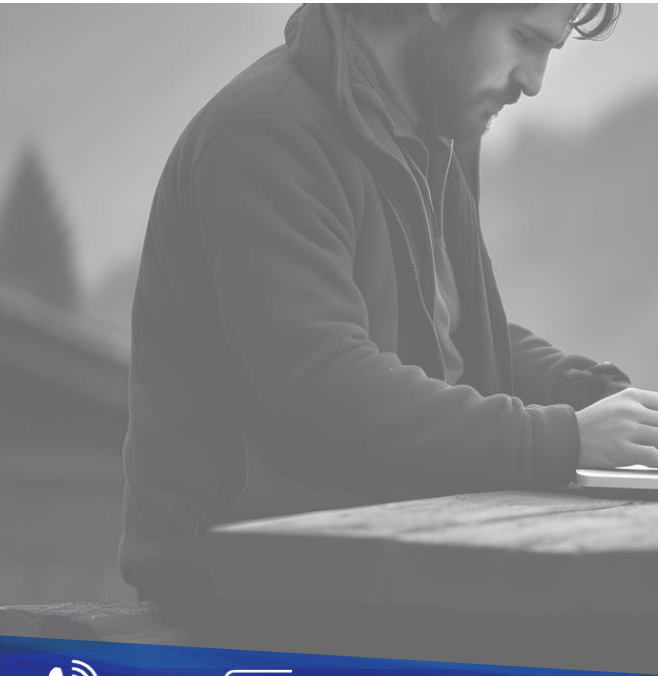
When planning an opinion essay, always try to consider the arguments for both positions. This can help you determine your own position. Then make your essay stronger by including, and refuting, the opposite point of view.

2 FOCUS ON WRITING

Read the Writing Skill. Then reread the opinion essay. Underline the supporting examples. Put an asterisk (*) next to the examples from outside sources.

WRITING SKILL Refer to outside sources

To make a strong case for your opinion, include not only personal examples, but use outside sources whenever possible. Referring to books, studies, and quotes from famous people are some ways to do this.



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WRITING INPUT

Topic: Can creativity be taught

Many people believe that creativity is an inherited quality. You are either born with a natural inclination towards creativity, or not. But anyone can be taught creativity, as long as they are willing to work at it.

Many people think creativity is something you're born with—either you have it or you don't. However, anyone can learn to be creative if they are willing to put in the effort.

Many believe that creativity is an innate trait—you either have a natural gift for it or you don't. However, with dedication and practice, anyone can be taught to be creative.

Teach the models to the Ss.

WRITING OUTPUT

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Can creativity be taught?

Ask the Ss to personalize the model in the public chat.

WRITING INPUT

(yes) Supporting example1: Quotation

Albert Einstein said, “Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.”

Here’s one by John Cleese: "Creativity is not a talent. It is a way of operating."

Twyla Tharp, a renowned choreographer said: "Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is the result of good work habits."

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WRITING OUTPUT

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(yes) Supporting example1: Quotation

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WRITING INPUT

(yes) Supporting example 2

Similarly, Malcolm Gladwell theorized that anyone who does something for 10,000 hours will become an expert.

By encouraging curiosity, problem-solving, and open-minded thinking, people can strengthen their creative abilities over time.

Trying new things and practicing different skills can help people become more creative.

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Trying new things and practicing different skills can help people become more creative.

(yes) Supporting example 2

Ask the Ss to personalize the model in the public chat.

WRITING INPUT

(no) Supporting example 1

It is true that creativity often runs in families–especially "showbiz" families.

Some argue that creativity is something you're born with and can't be developed by just practicing.

Others think that no amount of practice can make someone more creative if they don't already have a natural talent for it.

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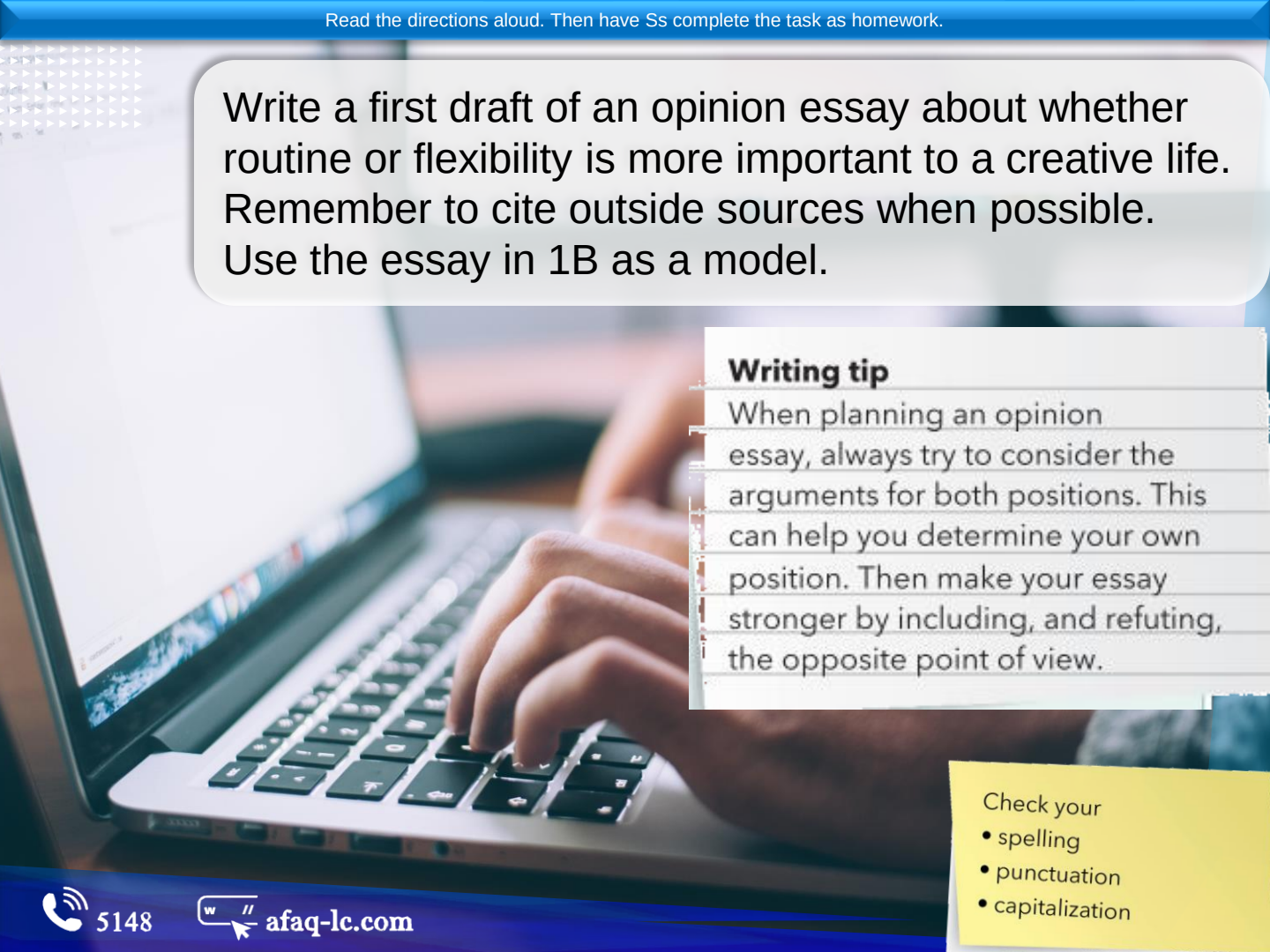
Others think that no amount of practice can make someone more creative if they don't already have a natural talent for it.

(no) Supporting example 1

Ask the Ss to personalize the model in the public chat.

Read the directions aloud. Then have Ss complete the task as homework.

Write a first draft of an opinion essay about whether routine or flexibility is more important to a creative life. Remember to cite outside sources when possible. Use the essay in 1B as a model.



Writing tip

When planning an opinion essay, always try to consider the arguments for both positions. This can help you determine your own position. Then make your essay stronger by including, and refuting, the opposite point of view.

Check your
- spelling
- punctuation
- capitalization