

Medical researchers, cosmetic companies, and others often perform experiments on animals. Many people feel that experimentation on animals is wrong and should be stopped immediately because animals do feel pain, and there are other alternatives. How do you feel? State your position and explain your reasons.

Since the cloning of the sheep Dolly, there has been much debate over whether or not human beings should be cloned. Many people feel this is a violation of the natural order of things and that all research in the area of human cloning should be banned. Others feel that this is a natural progression of science and human evolution and that research in the area of human cloning should be a priority. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

We all have favorite activities that we enjoy. Write an essay convincing readers to try the activity that you enjoy most.

Research shows that the average American watches as much as six hours of television each day. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing readers to spend less time in front of the TV.

Many junior high and high schools around the country now require students to spend a certain number of hours each term doing volunteer work or community service. Some people believe this is an excellent idea that promotes good citizenship and cultivates compassion. Others feel that forced volunteerism is not volunteerism at all. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position

Write an essay convincing readers to break a specific habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health.

Many of us spend hours in front of our computers and communicate more by e-mail or instant-messaging than in person. Some people believe that this is good because it helps shy people communicate more openly with others. Others believe that computer communication prevents us from developing interpersonal skills and limits our ability to have meaningful relationships with others. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some companies offer a paternity leave that allows fathers to stay home with their newborns for several weeks while still earning partial pay and benefits. Do you think this is a good policy? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

According to some health organizations, many foods on our grocery store shelves are made with genetically modified ingredients. Most of these foods, however, do not have a *GMO* (genetically modified organism) label. Do you think there should be a law requiring manufacturers to label foods containing *GMOs*? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

More and more farmers and food manufacturers are genetically modifying their crops to reduce susceptibility to disease, improve flavor, and reduce costs. Do you think genetically modifying foods is a good idea? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Representatives of credit card companies can often be found on college campuses offering special incentives to get students to fill out credit card applications. Many people feel that this takes advantage of students, who are often low on cash during their college years. Others feel that it is an excellent way to help students begin to build credit and learn financial responsibility. How do you feel about this issue? Take a position and use specific reasons and examples to support your argument.

What is your all-time favorite movie and why? Write an essay persuading readers to watch this film.

Is "an eye for an eye" a good basis for determining an appropriate punishment? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

Many cities suffer from serious air and noise pollution—as well as endless traffic jams—because of too many cars. Some people feel that cities with extensive public transportation systems should ban passenger cars and force people to walk, bike, or use public transportation. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

Some people prefer to live in the quiet of the country; others prefer the hustle and bustle of the city. Which do you think is the better choice? State your position and support it with specific reasons and examples.

Some people think of the United States as a nation of "couch potatoes." Write an essay persuading readers to be more physically active.

Today's top professional athletes often have salaries and bonuses in the tens of millions of dollars. Do you think these athletes deserve such high compensation? Why or why not? Explain your position and use specific reasons and examples.

It has often been said, "Ignorance is bliss," and "What you don't know won't hurt you." Do you agree with these statements? Why or why not?

Most private schools require students to wear uniforms. Should public school students wear uniforms too? Argue for or against school uniforms for public school students. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Many people believe that honesty is the best policy. In your opinion, is it ever okay to lie? Explain your answer using specific reasons and examples.

If it were up to you to choose one item from the twenty-first century to place in a time capsule for future generations, what would you choose? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice, explaining both the item's significance and the reasons why it embodies the culture of the early twenty-first century

All across the country, state laws require drivers to wear seatbelts. Not everyone believes the use of seatbelts should be mandatory. What do you think? Make a case for or against mandatory seatbelt use. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Every year, millions of people visit zoos around the world. But some people believe that zoos are inhumane and that animals should not be kept in captivity. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

. It has often been said that we can lie with silence as well as with words. Do you agree? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

Thomas Edison, the renowned inventor, is famous for having said, "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." Do you agree with this definition of genius? Why or why not?

For decades, elementary school children across the country had been required to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag every school-day morning. That practice has recently been called into question, and standing and reciting the pledge is now voluntary. In your opinion, should students be required to say the pledge, should it remain voluntary, or should the practice be completely abandoned? State your position and use specific reasons and examples to support it.

The inventor and statesman Benjamin Franklin said, "Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

The poet W. H. Auden wrote, "Machines are beneficial to the degree that they eliminate the need for labor, harmful to the degree that they eliminate the need for skill." Do you agree? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your stance.

According to a Czechoslovakian proverb, "Better a lie that soothes than a truth that hurts." Do you agree? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer.

Is there something that you believe is truly worth fighting for? Write an essay persuading others that this cause is worth a fight.

Describe your vision of an ideal vacation.

Describe how and why people choose the particular foods they eat.

Describe a major environmental problem and what you believe should be done about it.

Discuss how a person achieves fame and fortune and how it changes the individual's life.

Discuss how conveniences change people's lives.

Explain why a particular adjective describes you perfectly

What is special about you? Explain what makes you a unique individual.

Explain the causes and effects of impulse buying.

Explain the causes and effects of prejudice.

Tell how you can make a new friend.

Describe your favorite season and explain why it is your favorite.

Describe a typical day of your life.

Describe how to brush your teeth

Describe the chores and responsibilities that you have at home.

Explain what you would do if you won the lottery.

If you could live in any decade, which one would you choose and why?

Describe the perfect menu for a picnic at the beach.

Describe the most luscious, decadent dessert you can imagine

Describe a teenage fad and the reasons you believe caused its popularity.

Explain how not getting enough sleep affects your day.

Compare and contrast public schooling and homeschooling

Describe how weather affects your mood.

Write an e-mail message to your colleagues, inviting them to a Memorial Day celebration

Write an e-mail message to a company complaining about a defective product.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said that he wished for the day when his children "would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Write about a time in your life when the content of your character was tested.

People often say "Don't judge a book by its cover." Describe a time when you misjudged someone based on his or her appearance or when someone misjudged you.

The first time we try something new can be exciting, frightening, and enlightening. Tell about an important "first" in your life and what you learned from the experience

It has often been said that "Life is a journey, not a destination." Tell about an important journey (physical, emotional, or spiritual) that you've taken.

Sometimes we surprise ourselves with what we are able to do. Describe a time when you accomplished something you didn't think you could do.

Sometimes something negative turns out to be positive—a "blessing in disguise." Describe a time in your life when something bad turned out to be good.

As the saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Describe a time when you persisted until you achieved your goal.

Movies and literature often deal with the theme of "counting your blessings." Tell about an experience that led you to appreciate someone or something you'd taken for granted

Even if we know money can't buy us happiness, we are often disappointed when we are unable to afford something we desire. Describe a time when you could not afford something you deeply desired.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote in one of his essays that he thought it amusing when a man could wear an expensive wristwatch, but could not tell time by looking at the position of the sun in the sky. Explain what he is saying about modern people and society.

Most of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing when we received shocking or important news.

Tell the story of what you were doing when you heard about an important event and how that news affected you.

Some people believe that you should seize the day—take every opportunity to live life to its fullest. Describe a time when you decided to seize the day.

Sometimes the extraordinary can happen during the most ordinary of tasks. Describe your experience.

One of Robert Frost's most famous poems tells about a man who takes the road less traveled. Tell about a time when you also chose the less-traveled path.

Describe an experience that led you to change a long-held opinion. We are tested in many ways throughout our lives. Tell about a time when you were tested.

Describe a time when you enjoyed something you thought you would not like.

Throughout our lives we may be asked to do things we do not want to do. Tell about a time when this happened to you.

It isn't always easy to be ourselves, especially when we are worried about what others may think of us. Tell about a time you pretended to be someone or something you were not.

If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do? Write a story detailing the events of this imaginary day.

Sometimes when we meet someone, we have no idea how important that person will become to us later in our lives. Describe the time you first met someone who later became very important to you.

If you have ever been treated unfairly, you may have been told, "Who ever said life has to be fair?" Describe a time you were treated unfairly and how you handled the situation.

P.W. Litchfield, founder of Goodyear Tire & Rubber, wrote, "One realizes the full importance of time only when there is little of it left." Describe an experience in your life that proved this statement to be true.

Alexander Maclaren, a Baptist minister, said, "The man who has not learned to say no will be a weak, if not a wretched man, as long as he lives." Describe an experience when you should have said no, but did not.

Music can often trigger powerful memories. Describe a memorable experience associated with a particular song or piece of music.

Is there a book that you feel should be required reading for everyone? Write an essay persuading your audience to read this book.

Nowadays, the private life of a politician is hardly private. In your opinion, should we be so concerned with the private affairs of a politician or political candidate? State your position and support it with specific reasons and examples.

If someone discovered a formula that would enable us to live forever, would that be a blessing or a curse? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.