

Writing task 2, lesson 6: Opinion essay

Here's the question and the full essay that you saw in the lesson:

***The money spent by governments on space programmes would be better spent on vital public services such as schools and hospitals.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

Governments in some countries spend large amounts of money on space exploration programmes. I completely agree with the idea that these are a waste of money, and that the funds should be allocated to public services.

There are several reasons why space programmes should be abandoned. Firstly, it is extremely expensive to train scientists and other staff involved with space missions, and facilities and equipment also come at a huge cost to the government. Secondly, these programmes do not benefit normal people in our daily lives; they are simply vanity projects for politicians. Finally, many missions to space fail completely, and the smallest technological error can cost astronauts their lives. The Challenger space shuttle disaster showed us that space travel is extremely dangerous, and in my opinion it is not worth the risk.

I believe that the money from space programmes should go to vital public services instead. It is much cheaper to train doctors, teachers, police and other public service workers than it is to train astronauts or the scientists and engineers who work on space exploration projects. Furthermore, public servants do jobs that have a positive impact on every member of society. For example, we all use schools, hospitals and roads, and we all need the security that the police provide. If governments reallocated the money spent on space travel and research, many thousands of people could be lifted out of poverty or given a better quality of life.

In conclusion, my view is that governments should spend money on services that benefit all members of society, and it is wrong to waste resources on projects that do not improve our everyday lives.

(275 words, band 9)

Analyse the essay by completing the following tasks:

1. Count the sentences in each paragraph. Did I use my normal approach, writing 2 sentences for the introduction, 5 sentences for each main paragraph and 1 sentence for the conclusion?
2. Highlight the linking words in each main paragraph. Which method did I use in each one: 'firstly, secondly, finally' or 'idea, explain, example'?
3. Underline the good vocabulary that I mentioned at the end of the video lesson.

Answers:

1. I did use my normal approach: 2 sentences, 5 sentences, 5 sentences, 1 sentence.
2. Linking in paragraph 2: firstly, secondly, finally, and, these, they
Linking in paragraph 3: furthermore, for example, and
Paragraph 2 has a 'firstly, secondly, finally' structure because we had 3 separate ideas.
Paragraph 3 contains one main idea, so we explained it in detail and gave an example.
3. See the video lesson.