

BIOGRAPHICAL ARTICLE

Writing Module - Part 2

TASK

You will **write a biographical article** for an English language magazine, newsletter or website on a topic of general interest based on the reading of a short text outlining a scenario. You will respond **using the information in the scenario** and the **three bullet points**.

The **aim** of an article is to interest, entertain and engage the reader. You should try to use techniques to **engage the reader** such as rhetorical questions as well as a range of interesting language.

In an article, you may have to **give examples** to support an idea or comment on a topic.

STYLE

Informal language: contractions, exclamations marks and questions marks are allowed.

TIME

30 minutes.

LENGTH

At least 180 words.

STRUCTURE

1. Title
2. Introduction (1st Paragraph)
3. Description of the topic (2nd Paragraph)
4. Reflection on the topic (3rd Paragraph)
5. Conclusion (4th Paragraph)



KEY LANGUAGE, IDEAS & STRUCTURES

1. Title

You should write an **inviting title**.

- You can use the following structures to help you with that:
 - How to ...
 - Why ...
 - A ____ you should know about ...
 - More important than ____ is ____ .
 - The (superlative) thing I have ever (verb).
 - To ____ or not to _____, that is the question.

Example:

How to keep fighting fit

2. Introduction

In the **first paragraph**, your goal is to get the readers' attention, so you must ask a question that the article will answer.

- To **engage the reader**, you should make use of 'open questions' and/or 'fixed expressions' to **address** the reader **directly**.

○ Open questions:

- Have you ever...?
- How would you feel if ...?
- Are you one of those people who ...?
- What would life be like if... ?
- What do you think about?
- Are you one of those people who think that?
- Do you ever wonder...?
- Can you imagine ...?
- What would you say if I told you that...?

○ **Fixed expressions:**

- Just imagine...
- Contrary to popular belief, ...
- It is in someone's nature to be

Example:

Have you ever had to be underwater and see a shark for the first time? ... (The 'introduction' must be longer; this is just part of a possible example).

2. Description of the topic

In the **second paragraph** you must **adapt the provided bullet points that fit in this section.**

- You must write about the topic in an **informative** and/or **descriptive way** while describing experiences and giving opinion.
- You should use 'rhetorical questions' or imperatives to **engage the reader** by **addressing** the reader **directly**.

○ **Rhetorical questions:**

- Wouldn't you agree more?
- Isn't that fantastic?
- There's no point, is there?
- What's the matter with this today?
- There's no hope, is there?
- How much longer will this injustice continue?
- Why me?
- Who cares?
- Why bother?
- How should I know?
- Could I possibly love this more?

Example:

*It was back in 2010 that I first went scuba diving. At first, I was studying in Sydney in Australia, **isn't that fantastic?***
(The 'description' must be longer; this is just part of a possible example).

3. Reflection on the topic

In this **third paragraph**, you must **adapt the provided bullet points that fit in this section**.

- You must write about the topic from a **critical perspective** (benefits, drawbacks, etc.) and **give your opinion indirectly**.
- You should use an **introductory sentence** to start the paragraph:

○ **Introductory sentences:**

- The coolest thing about ...
- What attracts me most ...
- As you know ...
- Just imagine ...
- There's no doubt that ...
- Apart from that ...
- If you ask me how ..., I'd say ...

○ **Giving opinion (indirectly)**

- To my mind, ...
- If you ask me why ..., I'd say ...
- It seems to me that ...
- ... has allowed me to ...
- ... has opened my eyes to ...
- The best thing about ... is ...

Example:

***If you ask me how** learning scuba diving has changed my life, **I'd say that it has opened my eyes to a world of adventure** ...* (The 'reflection' must be longer; this is just part of a possible example).

4. Conclusion

In this **fourth paragraph** you will **conclude** the topic by first writing a “conclusion” connector.

- Besides, you should give a **summary of the main idea** while answering the question asked in the introduction.

‘Conclusion’ connectors:

- From my point of view,
 - In a nutshell,
 - To sum up,
- Also, you could **express explicitly** your **personal opinion** on the topic in order to justify your conclusion.

Example:

In a nutshell, scuba diving is hard to learn but it is incredibly rewarding to do ... That’s why ... (The ‘conclusion’ must be longer; this is just part of a possible example).

