

TELETANDEM

TEXT:

You should write an informal letter to your partner discussing about a controversial topic you both ought to discuss in your next meeting. You can use this letter as a warm up to your next talking. ☺

How to write an informal letter...

- ✓ You are writing to your partner (your new friend) and so you can expect to use more informal language.
- ✓ It is easy to get an informal letter wrong by forgetting the rules of good writing. Here are some dangers: you forget about a clear structure to your letter - so use paragraphs just like you would elsewhere; you forget about range of vocabulary - informal doesn't mean oversimple; you also forget range of grammar too. Be careful!
- ✓ You are supposed to be writing to a friend, so it is a good idea to do what friends normally do - chat. In letters, this typically means that the letter opens with news and closes with the hope that you will see or talk to each other soon. This helps structure your letter.
- ✓ You should remember that vocabulary is 25% of your score in all parts of the writing test. One problem with letters is that they may look too simple and that you forget to use a range of vocabulary. One suggestion is that you think of synonyms and collocations for the words in the question.
- ✓ The vocabulary is not very complex. It doesn't need to be - this is an informal letter to a friend. It is, though, very specific.

Some controversial topics...

- ✓ Using animals in medical research helps people
- ✓ Gay marriages are wrong
- ✓ Women will never be equal to men in the workplace
- ✓ You can't have a happy family life and a successful career at the same time
- ✓ Marriage is outdated
- ✓ The death penalty is acceptable in some cases
- ✓ Foreigners shouldn't be allowed to vote
- ✓ Celebrities earn too much money
- ✓ Military service should be obligatory
- ✓ War is never an option for solving international disputes
- ✓ Torture can be acceptable in some cases
- ✓ Curfews keep teens out of trouble
- ✓ We are becoming too dependent on computers
- ✓ Smoking should be banned worldwide
- ✓ Single-sex schools are evil

- ✓ Homework is harmful
- ✓ Soft drugs should be legalized.
- ✓ You will be happier if you stay unmarried
- ✓ We do not really need religion
- ✓ Euthanasia should be legal
- ✓ Obesity is a disease

References:

<http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-letters/informal-letter-to-a-friend/>

<http://busyteacher.org/4686-33-controversial-topics-and-how-to-teach-them.html>