

## EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION

- a Read the title of the magazine article. Do you agree or disagree? Then quickly read the article and see if the writer's opinion is the same as yours.
- b Complete the article with a word or phrase from the list below.

finally firstly for instance in addition in conclusion  
in most cases nowadays secondly so whereas

- c You are going to write an article for a magazine. With a partner, choose one of the titles below.

**Downloading music or films without paying is as much of a crime as stealing from a shop.**

**Squatters who live in an unoccupied property should not be forced to leave it.**

- d **Plan** the content. The article should have four or five paragraphs.

- The introduction:** Think about what the current situation is and what your opinion is.
- The main paragraphs:** Try to think of at least two or three clear reasons to support your opinion. You could also include examples to back up your reasons.
- The conclusion:** Think of how to express your conclusion (a summary of your opinion).

- e **Write** 120–180 words, organized in four or five paragraphs (introduction, reasons, and conclusion). Use a formal style (no contractions or colloquial expressions). Use the phrases in **b** and in **Useful language**.

### Useful language: ways of giving your opinion

(Personally) I think... / I believe...

In my opinion...

In addition / Also

In conclusion / To sum up

### Ways of giving examples

There are several things we can do, for example / for instance / such as...

Another thing we can do is...

We can also...

- f **Check** your article for mistakes (grammar, punctuation, and spelling).

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## Community service is the best punishment for young people who commit a minor offence.

<sup>1</sup> *Nowadays* in the UK when a young person commits a minor offence, he or she is normally sentenced to prison, given a fine, or community service. <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I believe that community service is the best option.

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, community service often persuades a young person not to re-offend. <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ working with sick children or old people makes young offenders realize that there are people who have more difficult lives than they do. So community service can be an educational experience, <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ going to prison or paying a fine is not.

<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, spending time in prison results in young people meeting other criminals and learning more about the criminal world, which may tempt them into committing more crimes. <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, in prisons many of the inmates take drugs and this is a terrible example for young offenders.

<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, I do not think that a fine is a suitable punishment for young people. They do not usually have much money themselves, <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it is often their parents who pay the fine for them.

<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, I believe that community service has important advantages both for minor offenders and for the community.

