

WRITING AN ARTICLE

What is being tested?

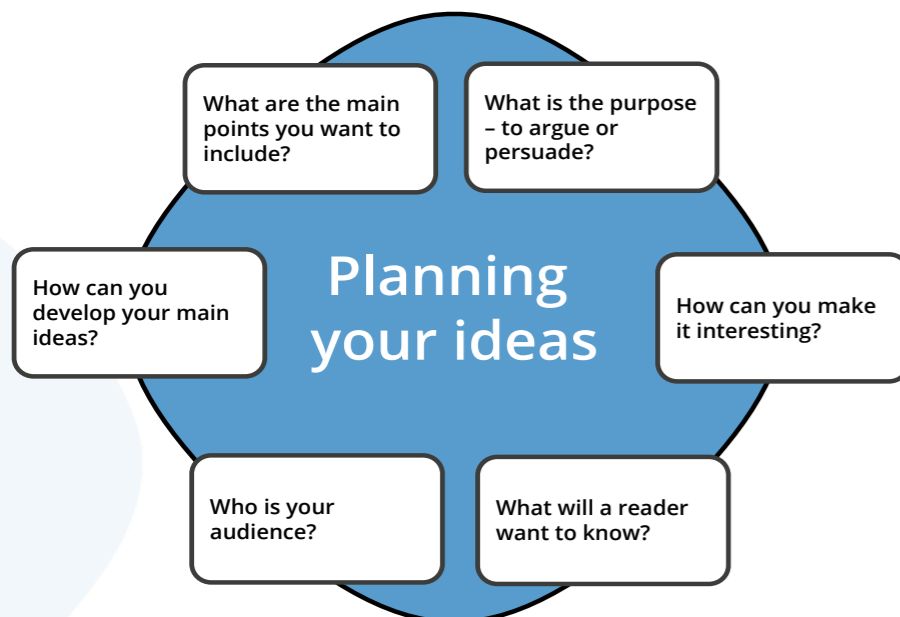
- How well you appeal to the reader, the quality of your ideas and how they are organised.
- Your ability to use sentencing, grammar and vocabulary.

Structuring an article:

1. Give your article a **title**. Use something interesting or catchy if you can.
2. Start with a focused **opening paragraph**, outlining the main ideas/your perspective.
3. Include two or three **main paragraphs** giving more specific details and reasons.
4. **Conclude** your article. Sum up your ideas and give the reader something thought-provoking to consider.

Planning your content:

Before you begin, read the task carefully. You should **plan out** what you want to include.



Definition:

An article is a piece of writing usually found in a newspaper, magazine or other publication.

Techniques that you can use in an article:

A good article should engage a reader's emotions. You might be asked to present a view or an opinion or even persuade someone to change how they feel.

Try using:

- effective words and phrases – use words that provoke strong emotions and feelings
- techniques such as rhetorical questions or imperatives – they make the reader pay attention to the points you are making
- facts or statistics – they support your views and make the reader feel confident that you are knowledgeable
- pronouns such as 'we' and 'you' – they make the reader feel the article is more personal
- options – including lots of different ideas will appeal to a range of readers
- anecdotes – short stories or messages to complement a point or message.

TOP TIPS:

- ★ Link ideas across paragraphs to create fluent writing – you can repeat ideas to reinforce a point.
- ★ Limit the number of bullet points you use. They do not allow you to show off your writing or punctuation skills.
- ★ Use topic sentences at the start of paragraphs to clearly organise your work and introduce ideas.
- ★ Keep checking the task you have been given to make sure you remain focused.
- ★ Do not be afraid to use emotions where appropriate.

Writing an article – tasks:

"Teenagers spend too much time on their gadgets and not enough time sleeping."

Write a lively article for your school or college magazine giving your views on this topic.

"You don't have to spend money to find happiness."

Write a lively article for your school or college magazine giving your views on this topic.

Write a lively article for your school or college magazine on how to lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

"We have enough problems in the world without worrying about animals."

Write a lively article for your school or college magazine giving your views on this topic.

Next steps:

Read a range of different articles in your own time. Write down what works well. Are there any techniques that you can copy?

Work through some sample tasks and plan what you might include.

Read your teacher's feedback when you next write an article. What do they think you need to do to improve?