

8.7 Writing

A reader's comment

I can give and support my opinion in writing

1 In pairs, look at the photo. What is your opinion of graffiti?



2 Read the article from a news website. How does the writer answer the question in the title?

Newsfocus.com: Daily Discussion

Graffiti: Street Art or Crime?

Yesterday, five members of a graffiti gang were sentenced to eighteen months in prison for damaging public property. The judge said that the damage had cost the government at least £1 million. The question must be asked about the people who spray graffiti: are they artists or vandals?

Personally, I believe that street art is a form of art. **However, it is illegal** to paint on public or private property without permission. Local councils spend millions of pounds each year cleaning graffiti and this means that taxes go up.

For this reason, I agree that the gang of graffiti artists should get prison sentences. When the judge sent the graffiti artists to prison, he gave a clear message to other graffiti artists: you think you are expressing yourself, but you are also committing a crime, and **what is more**, you could go to prison.

Join the Daily Discussion and tell us what you think in our Reader's Comments section below.

daisy345 says: Thank you for your excellent article. I found it interesting because you show that street art ...

3 Which linkers in purple from the article in Exercise 2 complete the WRITING FOCUS correctly?

WRITING FOCUS

Linkers

When you give your opinion in a piece of writing such as a reader's comment, use linkers to:

- give an opinion: I think ... **Personally, I believe that**
- add further points: In fact, .../I also agree that .../ I also think that .../2
- give an opposite opinion: On the other hand, I strongly disagree .../3
- conclude: Therefore .../So .../That's why .../4

4 Read the reader's comment on the article. In your notebook, write the appropriate phrases from the WRITING FOCUS to complete the comment.

daisy345 says: Thank you for your excellent article. I found it interesting because you show that street art can be called 'vandalism' or 'free expression', depending on your point of view.

Personally, I believe that street art is a form of art. **However, it is illegal** to paint on public or private property without permission. Local councils spend millions of pounds each year cleaning graffiti and this means that taxes go up.

For this reason, I agree that the gang of graffiti artists should get prison sentences. When the judge sent the graffiti artists to prison, he gave a clear message to other graffiti artists: you think you are expressing yourself, but you are also committing a crime, and **what is more**, you could go to prison.

5 Read the reader's comment again and answer the questions.

- 1 Which two opinions do both writers agree on?
- 2 Which opinion do they disagree about?
- 3 Who do you agree with and why?

6 You have just read the article below on a news website. Write a reader's comment of 80–130 words:

- give your opinion about the article;
- say what you agree with and why;
- say what you disagree with and why;
- give your conclusion.

Use the WRITING FOCUS to help you.

Newsfocus.com: Daily Discussion

Celebrity shoplifting: crime or illness?

Yesterday, a judge sentenced a Hollywood star to six months in prison for stealing jewellery worth \$5,000. The celebrity could easily afford to buy the necklace, so the question must be asked: is she a criminal or is she sick?

Personally, I believe that rich people who steal from shops are sick. Shoplifting is like a drug for these people. However, shoplifting is a crime and therefore the celebrity broke the law.

For this reason, I think the judge made the right decision.

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