

Discursive Essay Samples

Sample 4:

You heard your sister, who is in her 30s, make the following comment to her best friend:

“Teenage years are the happiest time in most people’s lives”

Write an essay expressing your opinion on the statement. Write **at least 250 words**.

Hook Different views Thesis Statement	Introduction Happiness is a sense of well-being or joy, and it is a feeling that comes over us when we know life is good. It is often said that the teenage years, between the ages of 13 to 19, are the happiest times in one's life. <i>On one side</i>, there is a school of thought that believes people have a great chance of feeling happiness in their teen years. <i>On the other hand</i>, some argue that teenage years are actually the most challenging period in life. <i>The former group holds that the teenage years are joyful because parents take care of responsibilities, allowing teens the freedom to explore new experiences. Meanwhile, the latter group contends that teenage years are tough due to the stress and changes teenagers face.</i>
Topic Sentence (a) Elaboration Paragraph conclusion	Body: 1st Point To begin with, parents take care of teenagers’ needs and responsibilities. <i>Teenagers do not have to worry about family-related obligations or financial problems because all their needs are taken care of by their parents. As a result</i>, their only duties are to attend school, complete their homework, and focus on their studies. They can spend quality time with friends, make new connections, and have fun without the burden of adult responsibilities, such as paying bills. <i>Therefore, they are able to find pleasure in life without stress.</i>
Topic Sentence (b) Elaboration Paragraph conclusion	Body: 2nd Point In addition, teenagers have the freedom and opportunities to experience new things. <i>At this stage in life</i>, they are allowed to ask questions, make mistakes, and freely express their thoughts. They can enjoy activities they are passionate about and manage their social lives through evolving technology. <i>Furthermore</i>, teenagers often experience new and exciting emotions, like a first crush or falling in love, which many recall fondly as an important part of their youth.

	<i>Thus, the freedom to explore and the thrill of new experiences contribute to a sense of happiness and excitement during teenage years.</i>
Topic Sentence (c) Elaboration Paragraph conclusion	Body: 3rd Point On the contrary, teenagers are also under an immense amount of stress. Stress is an unavoidable part of life for most teenagers as they struggle with schoolwork, exams, and extracurricular commitments. The pressure to perform well academically, often imposed by parents and teachers, makes life tough. <i>Moreover</i> , teenagers face the additional challenge of preparing for life beyond school, whether that means pursuing higher education or finding a job. <i>Alongside academic pressures</i> , they must also navigate complex social relationships, which can sometimes add emotional strain.
Topic Sentence (d) Elaboration Paragraph conclusion	Body: Point 4th point Moreover, teenagers experience significant changes during these years, which can make life difficult. Physical, behavioral, and psychological transformations often bring misunderstandings, as society may reprimand them for acting in ways that adults see as inappropriate. <i>For instance</i> , parents and society expect teenagers to dress and behave decently, but teens may want to follow the latest fashion trends to express their identity. <i>This clash of expectations</i> makes it difficult for them to live happily, as they feel pressure from both sides. <i>Furthermore</i> , society expects them to act maturely while simultaneously treating them like children, leaving teens feeling deprived of independence and privacy.
Concluding line Writer's opinion Clincher	Conclusion In conclusion, after weighing both sides, it aligns with the late Irving Berlin's words, "Life is 10 percent what you make it and 90 percent how you take it." Indeed, the perception of happiness during teenage years largely depends on one's outlook. However, in today's competitive world, where academic and social pressures are ever-present, teenagers often face a challenging path to enjoying their youth. <i>Ultimately</i> , teens need to embrace all experiences, both joyful and challenging, as preparation for adulthood.