

IELTS Writing Task 2

Planning Process (5 to 10 minutes)

1. Identify the Topic.

To be certain what the topic is you need to write about, underline the key words in the introduction given in the question.

2. Identify the Task

To be certain what type of essay you have to write to answer the question, underline the key words in the task sentence.

3. Decide the type of essay you're going to write

3.1 For **opinion** essays, decide your view

100% Agree - Thesis Led , one opinion throughout

100% Disagree - Thesis Led , one opinion throughout

Partly Agree - Argument Led , discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Examples of **opinion** essays are, *to what extent do you agree or disagree? Is this a positive or negative development? discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

3.2 For **non-opinion** essays, clarify the type of essay to write from the task.

Examples of **non-opinion** essays are, *discuss the advantages and disadvantages, problems and solutions, causes and effects, reasons and solutions.* For these tasks there is no decision to be made, you have to write about **both aspects** given in the question. For example, the **causes** of children being overweight (MB1) and the **effects** of children being overweight (MB2).

4. Write the introduction paragraph.

Paraphrase the introduction given in the question. Then, depending upon whether the essay is an opinion essay, or non-opinion, either state your opinion or state the type of essay you're going to write. (Refer to separate essay structure lessons for full details of each essay type introduction).

5. Brainstorm

Generate ideas, reasons and examples for each controlling idea per main body paragraph.

For example:

Main Body 1

Controlling idea = **Causes** of children becoming overweight

Idea 1 = Unhealthy eating habits.

Reason 1 = Popularity of junk food

Examples 1 = McDonalds, KFC, Pizza Hut etc.

Idea 2 = Not enough physical exercise

Reason 2 = How children choose to spend their free time

Examples 2 = Play computer games, spend time on mobile phone apps, social media etc.

Main Body 2

Controlling idea = **Effects** (results of, consequences) of children being overweight

Idea 1 = Physical health problems

Reason 1 = Overweight related diseases

Examples 1 = Diabetes

Idea 2 = Psychological issues

Reason 2 = Treated unkindly by other children, bullied

Examples 2 = Low self-confidence, become withdrawn and don't develop social skills.

6. Think of ways to improve your score

Spend only a short amount of time trying to think of any advanced vocabulary or less common words you could use. Or, any examples from your own knowledge, these will add to your score.

7. Begin to write the essay

Now with all the information and thoughts you have generated and organised in your planning, begin to write your essay following the recommended essay structure (see separate essay structure lessons for full version of each essay type).

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Body Paragraphs**
- 3. Conclusion**