IELTS/TOEFL Advantages/Disadvantages Essay

Advantages/Disadvantages Model Response

Example Prompt:

Many elderly people are no longer looked after by their families but are put in care homes or nursing homes. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend and give your opinion.

I chose to write this essay by partially agreeing and partially disagreeing. This question prompt has three parts, so I need to be sure to cover all three parts in my response. I could choose to put my opinion throughout my body paragraphs, or I could write a separate 3rd body paragraph outlining my opinion. I should format this essay-type as follows:

Introduction: Paraphrase statement and prompt and then state your opinion
Body paragraph 1: Give advantages to statement – with reasons and examples (optional: include whether or not you agree with these advantages).
Body paragraph 2: Give disadvantages to statements – with reasons and examples (options: include how you feel about these disadvantages).
Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL): Briefly outline your opinion – if you think the advantages or disadvantages hold more weight.
Conclusion: Restate the statement with brief advantages/disadvantages and your opinion.

Model Answer Word Count: 340 words

In the past, families took care of their elderly members in their own homes; however, today, it is becoming more common for elderly people to go to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. There are several advantages and disadvantages to this trend. In my opinion, it is better for elderly people to be cared for in the home by their families when possible.

Long-term care facilities can help senior citizens live comfortably. Often elderly people need specialized care that their family members are unable to provide. In this case, it is better for them to go to long-term care facilities. For example, if a senior citizen has memory problems and is a danger to themselves while alone, they may need to live at a nursing home where they can be attended to constantly. Nursing homes not only provide nursing care for their residents, but they also offer extracurricular activities and a customized meal plan for each individual, helping them stay healthier longer. This care and the availability to activities and food would be difficult in the home of a family member.

On the other hand, staying in a nursing home has many disadvantages. One common complaint of care facilities is the high resident to staff ratio. My grandmother lived at a rehabilitation center when she was unable to walk due to hip surgery. When she needed to use the restroom it could take a staff member upwards of thirty minutes to attend to her call. When senior citizens are cared for in their homes, the care they receive comes from someone who truly loves and cares for them. Additionally, they will know the patient better than aides at a care-facility.

To conclude, while elderly people staying in nursing homes has become the new trend, this is not an easy issue. There are many advantages and disadvantages on both sides. For many, staying at home may be a better option. What choice is correct for each individual will depend on their needs, their family’s abilities and resources, and their personality.