

## ARTICLE WRITING

An article is usually an independent piece of prose found in newspapers or magazines. It is usually non-fiction and informative in nature. The name of the writer is always mentioned with the article.

### Format:

- Title : Eye-catching
- Introduction : Put the topic in perspective  
: Catch the reader's attention
- Exposition of topic : Merits/demerits, causes-results, effects, etc
- Winding up : Your comments, opinion, criticism, etc
- Conclusion : A hope, warning, an appeal or a call for action
- Name of the writer : It can be placed just after the heading or at the end of the article

### Points to remember:

- The purpose of writing the article should be clear.
- The title can be a single word, a phrase or even a sentence, which is catchy.
- The body of the article follows a structured approach.
- Think of the kind of readers expected to read the article and then attempt to write it.
- The vocabulary and grammar has to be specific to the topic and use of difficult and bombastic language should be avoided.
- The visual/verbal input should be used to the optimum and interpreted as per the needs of the article.
- The points, quotations, etc in the article have to be planned out.
- Quotations should be added only when absolutely essential. Do not overdo the use of quotations.

### Marking scheme

Title	—	1 mark
Introduction	—	1 mark
Body	—	2 marks
Conclusion	—	1 mark

Sample articles:

1. The Delhi administration has launched a campaign against the use of polythene bags. Write an article on 'Hazards of Polythene Bags' in about 150 words for your school magazine.

### **Hazards of Polythene Bags**

Polythene bags have become very popular for carrying our shopping home. These bags are light, handy, attractive and strong. Shopkeepers find them easy to store and customers regard them as beneficial too. But they are a big threat to our environment. They have many adverse effects, for example, they are not biodegradable and produce noxious gases when burnt. They choke the drains and provide breeding grounds to deadly germs. Animals and birds mistake them for food and when they eat them, their digestive systems get disturbed. These bags never decay and the fertility of the earth is lost due to their excessive use. Thus, the greenery of the earth is hampered. The poisonous gases produced on burning the polythene bags cause serious diseases like bronchitis, allergy, cancer, etc in human beings. Therefore it is our responsibility to stop the use of polythene bags. We should take an active part in the anti-polythene campaign launched by the Delhi administration.

*XYZ*

2. You are Siddharth. Your brother is six years old and you want to gift him a set of books. Write an article in about 150 words, under the title 'The Lasting Value of Books'.

### **The Lasting Value of Books**

Books are our constant companions. They are great sources of knowledge and entertainment. Books can open up the unknown world to us and familiarise us with the unfamiliar. It is fascinating to read about various things that one has never seen or heard about. Books are the tools with which we can explore the vast world around us. Thus, it is very essential to make a child understand the importance of books. One can motivate a child to read books by describing various adventures in books and presenting the child with books instead of toys. A child soon tires of toys which are only a source of momentary attraction. But once the reading habit is inculcated in a child, it will automatically grow and develop. It is a habit that reaps rich rewards for a lifetime.

Books have stood the test of time and last forever. They never grow old or change like fashions or toys. Their real importance is understood only in retrospect and so have a lasting impact on readers. Thus, we should give a child gifts that last and endure.

*Siddharth*

3. You are Smriti Singh. You have been asked by the editor of your school magazine to write an article on the subject of terrorism. Write the article in about 150–200 words.

### Terrorism

The word ‘terrorism’ is derived from the word ‘terror’ which means ‘extreme fear’. Terrorists are people who try to create an atmosphere of fear among law-abiding citizens by committing acts of violence against them. Some of the methods that terrorists use to force the government of a country to accept their demands are bomb blasts, hijackings, assassinations and kidnappings. Terrorists do not hesitate to murder innocent and unarmed people, sometimes of even their own country. Their purpose is to obstruct the social and economical development of a country, thereby weakening it and forcing it to accept the power of those who support terrorism.

Terrorism has become a worldwide phenomenon. No country is safe from it. India, too, has suffered much at the hands of these wicked people. But we shall stand up against these evil forces. If all peace-loving people of the world unite, then the poison spread by terrorist activities will surely be wiped out, and peace and harmony will return to the world.

*Smriti Singh*

## WORKSHEET 2

1. These days we frequently hear reports of trees getting uprooted even during a light storm. We are losing our precious green friends and this is a cause for concern. Write an article in 150–200 words discussing why these big trees are falling over and what we can do to slow this down. You may use the following points while discussing the reasons behind this:
  - diminishing open ground and soil area around the roots due to cemented footpaths
  - digging up of roads to install communication cables and pipelines
  - unplanned cutting of the extending branches, causing the trees to lose balance and topple over
  - depleting groundwater level

Suggest solutions like:

  - re-designing of the landscape to allow the trees more open ground to breathe and to allow rainwater to seep into the soil
  - plant such species of trees that require less water
2. ‘You will be nearer to heaven playing football than studying the Bhagavad Gita.’ These might seem like strange words coming from a personality like Swami Vivekananda. Imagine that you too were baffled when you read these words. But you thought over them and understood what the Swami meant. He was addressing a sickly-looking young man who spent all his time reading holy books. The Swami was trying to drive home the point that physical, mental and spiritual health go hand in hand. Write an article of 150–200 words for the annual magazine of your school stressing the value of all-round development from a young age.
3. Vignaraj is a football fan. He has kept a record of his favourite player, Zidane. He wishes to write an article for the sports section of the school magazine on his favourite footballer. Write the article in about 150 words with the help of these notes:

<b>Zinedine Zidane</b>	
1972	born in Marseilles
1988-92	A S Cannes Club, scored 61 goals
1992-96	Girondines–Bordeaux Club, scored 139 goals
1996-2001	Juventus
2001-2006	Real Madrid
1994-2006	Member of the national team
1998, 2000, 2003	FIFA World Player of the Year for all these three years; played 4 World Cup tournaments

4. After reading an article about a suicide by a 15-year-old girl studying in a leading Delhi school, you are moved to write an article on ‘Teenagers under duress’. Write the article in 150–200 words taking hints from the verbal inputs provided.

15-year-old ends life

scored 97.5% in pre-Boards

parents wanted her to be an engineer

unable to cope with stress

wanted to study Humanities

depression overpowers sanity

5. Nature has a lot to offer us. She feeds, clothes and takes care of us. She is the best teacher we could ever have. We learn to be patient, forgiving and selfless from her, but she also has a dark side, and can be ruthless if her patience is tested too much.

Based on the short article given above, write an article for your school magazine highlighting the virtues of nature and why she is considered the best teacher. Do not exceed 150 words.

6. The wealth under the sea water in the form of the amazing aquatic life is of paramount importance to maintain the balance in nature. Write an article for the school magazine on the topic ‘The vital life of the sea-bed’. Do not exceed 200 words.
7. You have been on an Adventure Camp to Sitlakheth in the hills of Uttarakhand. As the Headboy of the school, you have been asked to write an informative article on your experience in the hills. Write the article in not more than 200 words.
8. Read this conversation between two young adults outside an office—

**Mohit:** The pollution level in the city is rising at an alarming rate. Delhi is becoming unbearable now.

**Ajay:** I wonder why? The reasons for this should be explored and something has to be done about it.

Write an article for a newspaper expressing your views on ‘Delhi: The most polluted city of the world’. Do not exceed 200 words.

9. Find out details of the life of Mother Teresa and write a short biography-based article in 150–200 words for your school magazine. Give your article an appropriate title.
10. Fashion trends today change even faster than day changes into night. Young people want to possess the latest designer clothes or the latest model in cell phones even though their existing ones are in quite a good condition. Every one wants to prove that he is just as good as his friends, or maybe even a step ahead. Write an article entitled ‘Race with Fashion’. Do not exceed 200 words.