

Look at the three alternative conclusions to the essay title below and identify the best.

Through recent medical advances we now have the capacity to determine the characteristics of unborn babies, produce clones, transplant animal organs to humans, as well as prolong life.

Such technology is unethical, interferes with the course of nature and should be prohibited.

To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

1.

In conclusion, recent medical advances offer us advantages such as prolonging our lives, improving the quality of our lives, and providing some infertile couples with the opportunity to experience parenthood. On the other hand, they pose dilemmas, including compromising our standard of living because of a dependent elderly population, potentially causing harmful mental and physical side effects, and undermining our ethical values. Therefore we have to think about them carefully or it will not be good.

2.

What is more, poor people often cannot afford to pay for these new medical advances. Consequently, they are only a benefit to a small, affluent part of the population, so we should prohibit them.

3.

To conclude, new medical advances have many positive outcomes. However, we should analyse our objectives carefully in order to decide what is appropriate and what should be permitted. If we do not, the result might not be longer more fulfilling lives, but instead, extended less satisfying existence.

Suggested Key

In pairs discuss the three alternative conclusions to the essay title below and identify the best. Refer to the worksheet, 'Outline of a Short Academic Essay' to help you.

1.

In conclusion, recent medical advances offer us advantages such as prolonging our lives, improving the quality of our lives, and providing some infertile couples with the opportunity to experience parenthood. On the other hand, they pose dilemmas, including compromising our standard of living because of a dependent elderly population, potentially causing harmful mental and physical side effects, and undermining our ethical values. Therefore we have to think about them carefully or it will not be good.

This example follows the suggested model of a concluding paragraph. The two summary statements succinctly paraphrase the main arguments. The paragraph makes a recommendation too, however, the benefits of this are not stated, so it is vague and unconvincing.

2.

What is more, poor people often cannot afford to pay for these new medical advances. Consequently, they are only a benefit to a small, affluent part of the population, so we should prohibit them.

This example does not follow the suggested model of a concluding paragraph. There is no statement referring to the main arguments or summary of them. In fact, it provides another argument, which the concluding paragraph should not contain. It does make a recommendation, however, this appears to be motivated by envy or jealousy, so it is not a very credible suggestion.

3.

To conclude, new medical advances have many positive outcomes. However, we should analyse our objectives carefully in order to decide what is appropriate and what should be permitted. If we do not, the result might not be longer more fulfilling lives, but instead, extended less satisfying existence.

This example follows the suggested model of a concluding paragraph. The summary statement is good; it refers back to the main arguments. The paragraph makes a recommendation too, which seems logical and acceptable.

G. Franklin: 23/2/2004