How to write an article

An article is a piece of writing usually intended for publication in a newspaper, magazine or journal.

• is written for a wide audience, so it is essential to attract and retain the readers' attention
• may include amusing stories, reported speech and descriptions
• can be formal or informal, depending on the target audience
• should be written in an interesting or entertaining manner
• should give opinions and thoughts, as well as facts
• is in a less formal style than a report or a review

An article can

• describe an experience, event, person or place
• present an opinion or balanced argument
• compare and contrast, provide information
• offer suggestions, offer advice

A realistic article should consist of:

1. an eye-catching title which attracts the readers’ attention and suggests the theme of the article (not included in word count)
2. an introduction which clearly defines the topic to be covered and keeps the reader's attention.
3. the main body of two to five paragraphs in which the topic is developed in detail. Start with a topic sentence and remember: One topic, one paragraph!
4. the conclusion - summarising the topic or a final opinion, recommendation or comment.
Sample article

Olinda’s Carnival- something for everyone

When most people think of Carnival, they think of Rio de Janeiro. But Rio isn’t the only city in Brazil that knows how to have parties. I live in Olinda, a lovely city in the north-east of Brazil. What can we say about the carnival at Olinda? Just that it’s the best in the world!

Carnival has its origins in ancient Egyptian and Roman festivals. It was introduced to Brazil by the Portuguese and was influenced by African rhythms and Indian costumes. Now it is a big national celebration.

Once Carnival starts, the whole town goes crazy! Everyone’s singing and dancing. Parades of people wearing costumes typical of our north-eastern folklore dance through the streets. I love the giant street dolls, both the traditional ones such as “the man of midnight” and the new ones that appear each year.

The best thing about our carnival is that no one has to pay and there are no big stars. Everyone takes part, rich and poor, old and young, residents and tourists. If you come, I promise you’ll never forget it!

Useful phrases for Article Writing

Rhetorical phrases involving the reader

Have you ever .......?

What do you think about .......?

Are you one of those people who thinks that ......?

Are you one of those people who ......?

What would life be like if ......?

Will the future bring us ..... ?

I’m sure you will agree..

Isn’t it really surprising that...?
Introducing your first point:
Firstly / In the first place / First of all / The first thing to consider is
One thing to consider is / To begin with / Let's start with

Introducing more points:
Secondly / Another consideration / Another thing to consider is
Added to that / Apart from that / In addition to this

Introducing your final points:
In conclusion / To conclude / To sum up / So / Finally

Introducing your opinion:
I think / In my opinion / Personally I believe that / Personally, I think that
In my view / If you ask me / To my mind /
My personal opinion is / it seems to me that

(http://www.brays-ingles.com/esl-writing-sample.html)
Another sample article:

**Should Animals Be Kept in Cages for Our Amusement?**

*Have you ever considered if animals at zoos are happy or miserable? I can remember when I was younger, my parents taking me to the zoo in Atlanta. I was amazed when I first set eyes on all of the wild animals. I remember thinking how great it was, someone had brought all of these animals from all over the world and put them in a zoo for my entertainment. Now, as I have grown older it has become clear to me; animals should not be caged for our entertainment.*

*Firstly, most animals kept caged up in zoos will never know how living free feels. Take for example Atlanta’s own Willie B. Willie B. is probably Atlanta’s most famous animal, but do you think he cares or even knows?. All he knows is that he has been sitting in a cage for over 20 years. Willie B. does not know what his natural habitat is or even looks like. He has never had a chance to hunt, play about, or until recently even mate. He has just been sitting in a cage day after day watching people watching him.*

*Another thing to consider is that a lot of animals caged in zoos are taken out of their natural environment and climate. These animals are often forced to live in climates they are not adapted to or even capable of adapting to. One good example of this is a polar bear. Polar bears are animals that are used to below-zero temperatures and putting them in a place like Atlanta, where the temperature can reach 40º is cruel.*

*As a kid I used to love going to the zoo and seeing all of the different animals. I did not use to think twice about how the animals must feel trapped in those small cages. But now as I am learning more about freedom and free will to choose to live how I wish, I am forced to take a step back and look at these caged animals.*

*On the whole, I personally believe these animals have the same desire for freedom that I have. Putting myself in their shoes, it seems to me that humans should not have the right to cage animals for their own entertainment. Don’t you agree?*

http://www.pdst.ie/node/588