

EL MUNDO NECESITA VOLUNTARIOS



THE WORLD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Senior Level – OPINION PIECE (50 MARKS)

LEAVING CERT SPANISH

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THE WORLD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

WHAT YOU GET IN THIS RESOURCE

When writing an opinion piece in Spanish, I always recommend using five separate paragraphs. Each paragraph has a specific job to do (they can be shorter than those in this booklet which are purely for informational and demonstration purposes).

The first paragraph is where you declare which side of the fence you are on. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? This is where you make that claim. Be sure to mention the statement here also.

The next three paragraphs are where you argue your points: one point per paragraph. Crucially, you will EXPAND or SUPPORT your points (perhaps with examples from your own life, if possible).

The fifth and final paragraph is where you give a summary of your points and, importantly, offer SOLUTIONS or RECOMMENDATIONS to the problem/situation.

In this document, you will find:

- *Essay plan with the three points and support details in English*
- *English version of the opinion piece*
- *Spanish version of the opinion piece*
- *Key vocabulary – to express opinions, to organise points / ideas*
- *Key vocabulary – for this specific topic*
- *Key grammatical constructions*
- *Key tenses and structures*
- *Reviewing Strategy (S.P.A.N.G.!)*

Try writing your own opinion piece BEFORE looking at the sample given here.

TIMINGS

Remember, the maximum you should spend on the Opinion Piece is 35 minutes:

PLAN 5 mins. – WRITE 28 mins. – REVIEW 2 mins.

ESSAY PLAN & LAYOUT

PARAGRAPH	POINT	EXPAND
1	YES – AGREE WITH TITLE	So many reasons why. I'll mention 3 here
2	FINANCIAL	Often not enough financial support from governments Volunteers provide services free of charge
3	MAKE HUGE EVENTS POSSIBLE	Special Olympics Volunteers bring joy to 1000s families/participants
4	BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEERS/SOCIETY	Feel part of community/society Feel proud of oneself/myself Volunteers learn new skills – First Aid (Red Cross)
5	SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION	Recommendation: everyone offers services as volunteer to local charity organisation Outcome: world will be better place

THE WORLD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

ENGLISH VERSION OF THE TEXT

INTRODUCTION – AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT

Firstly, I have to say that I find this statement very interesting and the topic very important in today's world. It is absolutely undeniable that volunteers provide vital services to society, especially for those less fortunate. Many charities help the poor, people with intellectual challenges and, also, people with mental health issues. Therefore, I would say that there is an endless number of reasons why the world needs volunteers and here I propose three.

POINT ONE – INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT

First of all, one of the biggest problems for charities is the lack of financial support from governments. These organisations often need to organise fundraising events and volunteers play an important role in them. It is clear that this type of organisation depends upon the participation of volunteers in order to exist.

POINT TWO – MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Secondly, many of the world's biggest events simply could not take place without the involvement of volunteers. Perhaps the most obvious of these is the Special Olympics. In particular, we have seen here in Ireland how volunteers bring joy to thousands of participants and their families with services of coaching, transport and caregiving.

POINT THREE – BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEERS AND SOCIETY

The last thing I would like to mention is that there are as many benefits for the volunteers as there are for the people would benefit from their help. Last summer, I worked as a volunteer with the homeless in Dublin city centre. The experience made me feel like I was an important member of society and it made me feel very proud of myself. Furthermore, with organisations like the Red Cross, volunteers often have the opportunity to learn many new things such as, for example, first-aid skills.

CONCLUSION & SOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account all the benefits that I have mentioned, I think it is clear that the world needs volunteers. I recommend that each citizen looks in their locality for a charity and that they offer their support to it as a volunteer. If this happens, the world will be a better place.

KEY VOCABULARY FOR EXPRESSING OPINIONS

ESPAÑOL	ENGLISH
me parece interesante	I find it interesting / it is interesting (to me)
tengo que decir que	I have to say that
es absolutamente indiscutible que	It is absolutely undeniable that
queda claro que / está claro que	it is clear that / it is obvious that
diría yo que	I would say that
hay un sinfín de razones	there is an endless number of reasons
creo que	I believe that

KEY VOCABULARY FOR ORGANISING POINTS / IDEAS

ESPAÑOL	ENGLISH
para empezar	firstly
por lo tanto	therefore
en primer lugar	first of all
en segundo lugar	secondly
la última cosa que me gustaría mencionar es	the last thing I would like to mention is
además	furthermore
también	also

KEY GRAMMATICAL CONSTRUCTIONS

ESPAÑOL	ENGLISH
hay un sinnúmero de razones	there is an endless number of reasons
la falta de	the lack of
depende mucho de	depends heavily on / relies heavily on
forman una gran parte de	they are a big part of / play a big role in
para funcionar	to exist / to work (esp. in this context)
no podrían tener lugar	could not take place
les dan mucha alegría a	they give / bring great joy / happiness to
me hizo sentir orgulloso	(it) made me feel proud
proveer (servicios)	provide (services)
recaudar fondos	to fundraise (verb) / to raise funds
teniendo en cuenta	taking into account
tienen que (+ infinitive)	they have to (+infinitive)

KEY TENSES AND STRUCTURES

<p>✓ PRESENT</p> <p>creo que</p> <p>los voluntarios les dan mucha alegría</p>	<p>I believe that</p> <p>the volunteers bring great joy</p>
<p>✓ CONDITIONAL</p> <p>yo diría que</p> <p>la última cosa que me gustaría mencionar es</p>	<p>I would say that</p> <p>the last thing I would like to mention is</p>
<p>✓ FUTURE</p> <p>el mundo será mucho mejor</p>	<p>the world will be much better</p>
<p>✓ SUBJUNCTIVE</p> <p><u>recomiendo que</u> cada ciudadano busque ... y ofrezca su apoyo a</p>	<p><u>I recommend that</u> each citizen looks for... and offers their support to</p>
<p>✓ PRESENT PERFECT</p> <p>hemos visto aquí en Irlanda</p> <p>los beneficios que he mencionado</p>	<p>we have seen here in Ireland</p> <p>the benefits that I have mentioned</p>
<p>✓ PAST SIMPLE</p> <p>el verano pasado trabajé como voluntario</p> <p>me sentí muy orgulloso de mi mismo</p>	<p>last summer, I worked as a volunteer</p> <p>I felt very proud of myself</p>
<p>✓ IMPERFECT</p> <p>formaba una parte importante de la sociedad</p>	<p>I was an important part of society</p>

KEY TOPIC VOCABULARY

ESPAÑOL	ENGLISH
voluntarios	volunteers
organización de caridad	charity organisations / charities
organización benéfica	charity organisations / charities
ayudar	to help (verb)
apoyo	support / help
sociedad	society
colaboración	collaboration / participation
alegría	joy / happiness
servicios de cuidado	caregiving services
orgullosa	proud
orgullo	pride
apoyo financiero	financial support / help / assistance
participantes	participants
eventos	events
ciudadano	citizen
Primeros auxilios	First-aid
discapacidades intelectuales	intellectual challenges
problemas con la salud mental	mental health issues

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VERSIÓN ESPAÑOLA DEL TEXTO

INTRODUCCIÓN – ESTOY DE ACUERDO CON LA AFIRMACIÓN

Para empezar, tengo que decir que me parece muy interesante la afirmación y muy relevante el tema hoy en día. Es absolutamente indiscutible que los voluntarios proveen servicios fundamentales a la sociedad, especialmente para los menos afortunados. Muchas organizaciones benéficas ayudan a los pobres, a la gente con discapacidades intelectuales y, también, a la gente con problemas de salud mental. Por lo tanto, diría yo que hay un sinnúmero de razones por las cuales el mundo necesita voluntarios y aquí propongo tres.

PUNTO UNO – APOYO FINANCIERO INSUFICIENTE DEL GOBIERNO

En primer lugar, uno de los problemas más serios para las organizaciones de caridad es la falta de apoyo financiero de los gobiernos. Frecuentemente, tienen que organizar eventos para recaudar fondos y los voluntarios forman una gran parte de ellos. Queda claro que este tipo de organización depende mucho de la colaboración de sus voluntarios para funcionar.

PUNTO DOS – GRAN EVENTOS INTERNACIONALES

En segundo lugar, muchos de los eventos internacionales más importantes del mundo no podrían tener lugar sin la colaboración de los voluntarios. Quizás, el caso más obvio es el de las Olimpiadas Especiales. Particularmente, hemos visto aquí en Irlanda cómo los voluntarios les dan mucha alegría a miles de participantes y sus familias con sus servicios de entrenamiento, transporte y de cuidado.

PUNTO TRES – BENEFICIOS QUE DISFRUTEN LOS VOLUNTARIOS

La última cosa que me gustaría mencionar es que hay tantos beneficios para los voluntarios, como para la gente que se beneficia de su ayuda. El verano pasado yo trabajé como voluntario con los sin hogares en el centro de Dublín. La experiencia me hizo sentir que formaba una parte importante de la sociedad y me sentí muy orgulloso de mi mismo.

Además, con organizaciones como La Cruz Roja, los voluntarios tienen la oportunidad de aprender muchas cosas nuevas como, por ejemplo, conocimientos sobre primeros auxilios.

CONCLUSIÓN – SOLUCIONES O RECOMENDACIONES

Teniendo en cuenta todos los beneficios que he mencionado, creo que está claro que el mundo necesita voluntarios. Recomiendo que cada ciudadano busque en su propia localidad hoy una organización benéfica y que le ofrezca su apoyo como voluntario. Si se lo hace, el mundo será mucho mejor.

REVIEWING THE TEXT

USE "S.P.A.N.G."

In the two minutes that you have to review your opinion piece, you should think of

S.P.A.N.G.

This means:

Spelling – straightforward enough

Punctuation – quickly check your full stops after sentences and commas etc.

Agreement – there are two big ones: **Number** and **Gender** (see below)

Number – check nouns-articles match (singular/plural): ***el** chicos ***las** batería

check verb-subject match (singular/plural): ***los** médicos **dice**

Gender – adjectives and nouns are typical traps: ***los** coches **nuevas** * **la** casa **blanco**

NOTE: * the asterisk symbol means the sentence/segment is not grammatically correct.