

CLASS XII
Writing Skills - Article Writing

WORKSHEET

Articles are written:

- to present information on a variety of themes as a long and sustained piece of writing.
- to pass on information on a wide range of contexts (school magazine, newspaper)

An article should contain:

1. A **title** that is eye-catching and that encapsulates the theme.
2. **Byline**-the name of the writer (which is written to the right of the heading in the next line.)
3. An **introductory paragraph** which introduces the theme with a quotation, anecdote, question or statistical data.
4. The **following two paragraphs** should develop cause-effect relationship.(use facts, give examples to support your views, present arguments in a logical manner)
5. **Suggestions**, personal observations, predictions to be made in the next paragraph
6. **Conclusion**
7. Each paragraph should deal with only one major idea which is conveyed in a single sentence called **topic sentence**. All other sentences contain supporting ideas.
8. Remember to keep within the word limit.
9. Select relevant information and present ideas logically.
10. Use appropriate language and style. Instead of using difficult and high sounding words, use a variety of words, specific to the given topic, taking special care not to repeat them too often. Use adequate vocabulary and range of grammatical structure to score high in examination.

Sample Article:

Write an article in about 200 words on the topic 'Modern Woman'. You are Ashish.

Modern Woman- By Ashish

This article is in sympathy for the beleaguered Indian male who is confronted with an alien species: the modern Indian woman! She is a wondrous and amazing phenomenon but a huge (?) one to him! He has seen a traditional grandmother and mother enjoy peaceful non-threatening roles as housewives and mothers and largely cocooned within their home domain. But this new breed of woman has wheels under her feet and air under her wings!

She has emerged from the clearly defined boundaries of her home and entered schools, colleges, and defined her right and role at the workplace. She effectively juggles a work life, her social life, her home, family life

and traditions and festivities. She's a great blend of Western emancipation and Indian warmth, compassion, family values and traditions. But contrary to his conditioned mindset of how 'women at home' should be, she is strong, worldly-wise, opinionated, independent, economically self-sufficient and probably isn't a virgin. It's hard for him to digest because it's not something that has happened slowly, but in one generation's lifetime, over just a couple of decades.

What he grew up looking at and what he is now confronted with is in stark contrast. How does he bring 'it' home to mom? How does he even begin to break his own mental stereotype and deeply ingrained 'good woman doesn't drink, entertain male work colleagues, party till late or go for holidays with her friends' thought processes? If conservatives drag her out of a pub for drinking, she retaliates by sending lakhs of pink chaddis in protest and carries on undeterred. Most men mistakenly perceive emancipation of women as losing power and control over their women. But the fortunate few see it as a wonderful union of equals. I say fortunate because the true strength of a man isn't in domination, it's in being strong enough to respect her for her life choices and instead of being threatened by her individuality, to enjoy it. The next time you encounter a beleaguered Indian male, ask him to be truly strong!

Sample Article: Modern Life: by Barbara Caw Thorne Crafton

We didn't even know what 'modern' was. What it felt like. We didn't just work: we inhaled our jobs, breathed them in, and became them. Stayed late, brought work home – it was never enough, though, no matter how much time we put in. We ordered things we didn't need from the shiny catalogs that came to our houses: we ordered three times as much as we could use, and then we ordered three times as much as our children could use. We didn't just eat: we stuffed ourselves. We had gained only three pounds since the previous year, we told ourselves. Three pounds is not a lot. We had gained about that much in each of the twenty-five years since high school. We did not do the math.

We re-did living rooms in which the furniture was not worn out. We threw away clothing that was merely out of style. "They always put that on the label," we told our children looking at the warning printed on the wine bottle, when they asked about this. We saw that they were worried. We knew it was because they loved us and needed us. How innocent they were. We hastened to reassure them: "It doesn't really hurt if you're careful."

We felt that it was important to be good to ourselves, and that this meant that it was dangerous to tell ourselves ‘no’ about anything, ever. Repression of one’s desires was an unhealthy thing. I work hard, we told ourselves. I deserve a little treat. We treated ourselves every day.

And if it was dangerous for us to want and not have, it was even more so for our children. They must never know what it is to want something and not have it immediately. It will make them bitter, we told ourselves. So we anticipated their needs and desires. We got them both the doll and the bike. If their grades were good, we got them their own telephones.

There were times, coming into the house from work or waking early when all was quiet, when we felt uneasy about the sense of entitlement that characterized all our days. When we wondered if fevered overwork and excess of appetite were not two sides of the same coin – or rather, two poles between which we madly slalomed. Probably yes, we decided at these times. Suddenly we saw it all clearly: I am driven by my creatures – my schedule, my work, my possessions, my hungers. I do not drive them; they drive me. Probably yes. Certainly Yes. This is how it is. We arose and did twenty sit-ups. The next day the moment had passed; we did none.

After moments like that, we were awash in self-contempt. You are weak. Self-indulgent. You are spineless about work and about everything else. You set no limits. You will become ineffective. We bridled at that last bit, drew ourselves up to our full heights, and insisted defensively on our competence; on the respect we were due because of all our hard work. We looked for others whose lives were similarly overstuffed; we found them. “This is just the way it is,” we said to one another on the train, in the restaurant. “This is modern life. Maybe some people have time to measure things out by teaspoonfuls.” Our voices dripped contempt for those people who had such time. We felt oddly defensive, though no one had accused us of anything. But not me. Not anyone who has a life. I have a life. I work hard. I play hard.

When did the collision between our appetites and the needs of our souls happen? Was there a heart attack? Did we get laid off from work, one of the thousands certified as extraneous? Did a beloved child become a bored stranger, a marriage fall silent and cold? Or, by some exquisite working of God’s grace, did we just find the courage to look the truth in the eye and, for once, not blink? How did we come to know that we

were dying a slow and unacknowledged death? And that the only way back to life was to set all our packages down and begin again, carrying with us only what we really needed?

We travail. We are heavy laden. Refresh us, O homeless, jobless, possession-less Savior. You came naked, and naked you go. And so it is for us. So it is for all of us.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. The number of cars that a country produces every year is one way of measuring its prosperity. At the same time what the vehicles lead to are traffic jams, air pollution, road-rage, an unhealthy competition in the middle class to own more and newer cars. What are your views on the issue – Private cars or Public transport? Describe them in an article in 150-200 words. You are Venu/ Veena.
2. Students of Class XII, not only do they prepare for Board examinations but also for entrance examinations. For the sake of preparation they have to divide their time between the two. How to manage their time, caught between the two goals, becomes a problem for them. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on ‘How should a student manage his time?’ You are Venu/ Veena.
3. Within a few months you will be joining a college. How do you look at college life? Is it freedom from strict discipline imposed on you by the school? A carefree life with no worries of completing assigned home work. Or, is it the beginning of responsibilities preparation for a brilliant career? Write an article in 150 – 200 words on what you think of college life. You are Venu/ Veena.
4. The time we spend on watching TV – most of it is spent on watching commercials. Most of the newspaper space is also taken up by advertisements. What is luxury for most of us is described as a need. We are made to buy things we don’t really require. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on ‘Advertisements – their role in a common man’s life’. You are Venu/ Veena.
5. The life of a student has become more sedentary than earlier. Pressure of studies, indulgence in internet, games on mobile phones – there is no time for him to play games in the field. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on ‘Importance of games and sports in the life of a student.’ You are Venu/ Veena.
6. Prices of food articles are rising. Floods, droughts, extreme temperature cause shortages. Greed of the middlemen, wastage at the farm and spoilage during transit all add to the misery of the common man. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on ‘Rising food prices and how to control them’. You are Venu/ Veena.
