

# 5 Crime

## Activities

*Essay structure and organization: writing topic sentences*

1 Complete the definition of a topic sentence below, using the words in the box.

ideas    main    paragraph    sentence

A topic sentence is the 1 ..... idea of a 2 ..... . It is typically the first or second 3 ..... in the paragraph. All other 4 ..... should link to this main idea.

2 Underline the topic sentence in this paragraph from the Unit 5 text.

Early biological theorists believed that criminality ran in families. Although research on deviant families is not taken seriously today, modern biosocial theorists are still interested in the role of genetics. Some believe antisocial behaviour characteristics and mental disorders may be inherited. According to this view, (a) antisocial behaviour is inherited, (b) the genetic make-up of parents is passed on to children, and (c) genetic abnormality is linked to a variety of antisocial behaviours.

3 Write suitable topic sentences for these two paragraphs.

1

One reason may be that the siblings share a genetic disposition to commit crime. Studies have shown that if one child has antisocial tendencies, then the likelihood of their sibling behaving in the same way is higher. However, these findings may also be explained by other influences in the siblings' lives. Peer pressure, shared interests, feeling threatened to commit an antisocial act, and imitation of an older sibling's behaviour may all explain this apparent genetic influence.

2

This is exemplified by the fact that there is a higher rate of antisocial children with criminal parents than the number of children with non-criminal parents. Alcohol may be one factor that explains why criminal behaviour is passed through the generations. A child with an alcoholic mother would be affected in its neurological and general development before and after birth. Furthermore, it has been suggested that parents who drink or use drugs and/or commit crimes are likely to use unsuitable and inconsistent discipline, which may perpetuate the antisocial behaviour in the child.

**Critical thinking: supporting evidence and examples** 4 a Read the Unit 5 text again. What examples can you find to support these opinions?

- 1 Labelling a person as genetically prone to committing crime would lead to them being stigmatized by society.
- 2 Antisocial children are more likely to have parents with criminal tendencies.
- 3 Children of alcoholic parents can be negatively affected in different ways.
- 4 Environmental factors may explain why siblings are more likely to share deviant behaviour.
- 5 Some twins are more prone to sharing similar behaviour than others.

b Are there any weaknesses in the evidence/examples you have chosen? How could this support be strengthened?

5 a Read this essay question and say whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Why?

Criminal behaviour results from environmental rather than genetic influences. Discuss.

b What information can you find in the Unit 5 text that supports or contradicts the statement?

c How would you organize this essay? What information would each paragraph contain? Make a mind map of your ideas.

d Write topic sentences to introduce each of your paragraphs.

**Using sources: giving supporting examples** 6 What language can be used to give an example? Make a list of as many phrases as you can remember.

Example: *such as*

7 Write three sentences using some of the opinions and support that you found in Exercise 4a. Paraphrase the information where possible and remember to use a suitable phrase to introduce the example.

Example: *Labelling a person as genetically prone to committing crime would lead to problems within society. This is exemplified by what happened in the 1970s, when a criminal in the US was found to have an abnormal chromosomal structure. It was feared that all people with the same genetic structure would be publicly identified and consequently treated negatively by the rest of society.*

**Language focus: alternative and counter-arguments** 8 Label these linking expressions to show which are used for adding support (S), and which can be used to introduce a counter-argument (C).

- 1 at the same time S
- 2 on the other hand
- 3 even though
- 4 however
- 5 furthermore
- 6 moreover
- 7 in addition
- 8 nonetheless
- 9 not only ... but also

**9 Complete each of these sentences using an expression from Exercise 8.**

- 1 ..... the role of genetics has largely been discredited, researchers are still interested in the role that genetics plays in criminal behaviour.
- 2 A child's behaviour is influenced ..... by genetics ..... by the environment.
- 3 Children's early neurological development may be affected by the actions of an alcoholic parent. .... , their development may be impaired.

**10 Write three more sentences using information from the Unit 5 text and a suitable expression to add support or introduce a counter-argument.**

**Extension** Write an essay answering this question. You can use information from the Unit 5 text, as well as any of the texts in Unit 5 of the Student's Book. Use the topic sentences that you wrote in Exercise 3, and introduce your examples clearly using a variety of expressions. Pay attention to how you add support and counter-arguments, and try to use a range of suitable linking expressions.

Criminal behaviour results from environmental rather than genetic influences.  
Discuss.