

Graphic organizer for essays and letters

Introduction

What? Where? With whom? How? etc.

Jill wrote and asked about my family

Body

Topic 1:

Family members and what they do

Supporting details:

- 3 children, 2 parents
- work, school
- other family members in town

Topic 2:

How typical

Supporting details:

- not typical; usually 1-2 children
- government supports having more children
- large family is expensive

Topic 3:

tasks and roles

Supporting details:

- mother stays home, cooks, cleans
- father works; fixes things
- children in kindergarten/school; help

Topic 4:

free time and celebrations

Supporting details:

- together at weekends and holiday
- travel in summer
- celebrate birthdays, name-days and holidays

Conclusion

Outcome, feeling, solution, closing.

family is important; write about your family; what is typical in your country

Dear Jill,

I have just received your letter in which you ask about my family.

Well, I am a stay at home mum. I live with my husband and three daughters. They are two, five and eight years old. The youngest of the children is at home with me, the middle one is in kindergarten and the eldest one is in elementary school. My husband works in a factory. We also have my husband's parents and elder sister's family in town. They live only a few streets away so it's easy to visit each other.

I would say that it is not typical to have three children. In most families there are only one or two children. Parents think that they can provide to a single child much more than they could provide to many children. Life is expensive and the government support for larger families is not enough. But it is great that children get free meals and textbooks in schools and we receive a monthly benefit for the children. Also, there is support for families who want to buy or build a house.

As I stay home full time, I do most of the shopping and I work around the house. I cook every day, I do the laundry and clean the house. My husband works in a local factory. He is quite exhausted when he comes home but he always fixes things around the house. He mows the lawn in our yard too. The two elder children are in kindergarten and school. They help me quite a bit with things like dusting the furniture. Even the youngest one tries to help but she just makes more mess. But she needs to learn how to be useful so I don't mind the extra work she causes.

The family is together at weekends and on holidays. We like to play ball games in the yard and board games inside the house when the weather is bad. We also visit my parents-in-law who love their grandchildren. We often have family dinners together and have birthday and name-day parties. On Christmas day we have a family reunion with all members of the family. In the summer we like to travel to the seaside. We always stay there for a week.

I think family is very important both for individuals and the society. I'm really happy about my family. How about you? Can you write me about your family? What is typical in your country?

Best wishes,

Elizabeth