



Same-sex Marriage: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

I agree with the idea of same sex marriage. Although there are those who believe that we feel to disagree with the idea of same sex marriage as these people feel that same sex marriage can be; tradition is broken, declining birth rates. I believe there are three reasons why we agree that same sex marriage.

First of all, one advantage of same sex marriage is taking advantage of concerning rights. If you plan on having or raising children, your status as a couple greatly affects your rights regarding your children. In marriage, both partners have the same rights and responsibilities. In a divorce, both partners can seek custody and visitation rights like any married couple. Upon death, the remaining parent automatically becomes the primary legal parent.

Another advantage of same sex marriage is taking advantage of joint property right. Marriage generally creates a presumption of joint ownership of property accrued during the marriage. The presumption is the opposite for unmarried couples, where your property will be presumed to be owned by whoever acquired it. Deciding which presumption works best for you and your partner can be helpful in deciding whether or not to get married.

Finally, same sex marriage guarantees homosexual rights. Not allowing same sex marriage is discrimination. Same sex marriage should be treated like heterosexual marriage. At the end of the day, I agree with the idea of same sex marriage.

<https://www.findlaw.com/family/marriage/same-sex-marriage-pros-and-cons.html>

How can you improve the writing?

Although the ideas appear reasonable, 32% of the text is similar to online sources i.e. copied. Possible citing the sources in the text with APA referencing at the end would convince the reader that THIS IS YOUR STANCE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE. However, it is important to paraphrase the writing into your own words (although key terms may not be). In this essay, however, it seems like some of the ideas have not been carefully thought as the ideas are simply cut and pasted into the essay with little regard to their meaning.

I agree with the idea of same-sex marriage. Although there are those who disagree with the idea of same sex marriage as it goes against traditional values and can lead to a decline in birth rates, I believe this is old and wrong. **There are two main legal rights issues** which should be for all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

First of all, **it strengthens the rights of both partners when married**. For example, if you are planning on adopting children, your status as a couple would be greatly affected if you were not married. Marriage indicates the seriousness of your commitment in the relationship and will give both partners equal rights and responsibilities as parents (FindLaw, 2018). This also enables fair treatment in the case of divorce. Like in any heterosexual marriage, both partners should be equally considered when seeking fair treatment of child custody and visitation rights. Finally, if one member in the relationship should unfortunately pass away, the remaining parent automatically becomes the primary legal parent.

Another advantage of same-sex marriage is **having joint property rights**. Like in other heterosexual marriages, both partners tend to buy property together as this shows their commitment in their relationship (FindLaw, 2018). However, unless married, property ownership will presumably be owned by whoever actually paid for it while the other part receives nothing. In the eyes of the law, both partners should be treated equally, especially in the case of divorce. Again, if one member dies, the property will pass to their partner.

At the end of the day, not allowing same-sex marriage is not only discrimination but legally unfair. Every couple should have the same rights to adopting children and owning property jointly. While there may be concerns about a decreasing population, it is certainly not morally wrong but in fact legally right to consider everyone's rights. Everyone should be treated equally regardless of their sexual orientation. Same-sex marriage should be treated like heterosexual marriage and not be considered as unique or different. **Allowing everyone the option to decide whether to be married or not should be up to the couple.**

FindLaw. (2018). Same-Sex Marriage Legal Pros and Cons. Retrieved from: <https://www.findlaw.com/family/marriage/same-sex-marriage-pros-and-cons.html>