

Essays

Exemplar:

Your English class recently had a class on the drawbacks of volunteering and how it might not be a force for good. You found the discussion interesting, but ultimately fruitless. So, you have decided to work out your opinion with clear and convincing arguments. Write a text in which you analyse problems underlying the issue, support your analysis with evidence, and present a clear, well-argued conclusion.

You recently came across an article that reported that mixed-race children are more likely to be academically gifted than others. This has intrigued you, and you want to work out your responses to the statement clearly and convincingly. Write a text in which you describe the assumptions behind the basic statement, explain arguments for and against, and then present your considered conclusion.

You are currently on holiday in a country you have never visited before, and you have just taken part in an event which is very typical of that country. This event has made a strong impression on you, and you wish to share this impression. Write a text in which you describe the event, explain why it made such an impression, and suggest what it may indicate about the culture of that country.

Somebody asked you the other day “In our modern world, are national borders still relevant?” You were not sure exactly what you think about this issue, and so you want to work out your opinion with clear and convincing arguments. Write a text in which you describe the problems underlying the question, support your description with examples, and present a clear, well-argued conclusion.

It appears that people visiting your country often fail to find out about the local customs in order to fit in well and not to give offence unintentionally. In order to help foreign students visiting your school, write a text which describes typical social behaviours, explains why these are significant, and suggests simple practical rules in order to feel at ease.

How we can compose an essay?

- 1: Before writing, have a simple plan of the structure of the essay. Normally, it includes opening (address the question/topic mentioned in the requirements), body paragraphs (analyzing perspectives, develop three ideas), conclusion (final thoughts).
- 2: Paying attention to the five-paragraph structure.
- 3: Using semi-formal or formal register according to the requirements, it would be good to use others' statements or any statistics to support the ideas.
- 4: The Final conclusion should have a final idea or opinion towards the topic.

Audience&Purposes:

The audience is assumed to be educated and informed, and capable of understanding sophisticated language, and methodical argument.

The purpose will usually be to analyse / explore / discuss the topic, as required by the question - so students should pay close attention to the 'action verbs' in the task.

Register & Tone:

Will generally use a semi-formal (personal essay) to formal (thesis-driven essay) register.

The tone of the essay should be generally be serious.

Conventions:

Will include a title (personal) or a question (thesis-driven).

Will use techniques that enable the reader to follow the arguments easily, e.g. methodical structure using cohesive devices.

Will have a distinct introduction/opening remark and conclusion/final thought.

Useful Languages:

Strengthen the persuasion:

According to ...'s statement, it manifests that...

For instance, in (Case Study), well-meaning ... indicates that...

Statistics reveal that X% of ... , leading to...

Guiding the Reader Through Counterarguments:

Some may argue that ... is better than none, yet this ignores...

However, this perspective fails to consider...

Conclusion:

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that ... can do more harm than good.

To sum up, ...

How to choose it in Paper 1:

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