

Writing

Paying Attention to Response Directions

To write an essay on an issue, one should heed the response directions following it in that such directions sometimes require that the testee follow a specific line of development as far the whole essay structure is concerned. For example consider the following issue and its response directions

Some people believe that government officials must carry out the will of the people they serve. Others believe that officials should base their decisions on their own judgment.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

As is clear, you are required to discuss two points of view before you present your own position. The general format of an essay written on such an issue would look like the following:

The writer of the issue contends that some people state that it is the will of the people that governments officials are expected to use as the basis for their making decision, **while** some others believe that government officials are to use their own discretion to make decisions necessary for carrying out their responsibilities. **In what follows the main reasons posited by both groups are first discussed and then my own position would be delineated.**

Those people who argue for the need for government officials to heed people's will in making their decisions seem to have two chief reasons for their position. The first reason is the very nature of democracy. -----

As was stated already, **there are some others who believe** that government officials ought to use their own judgment when they want to make decisions. These people seem to give more weight to the role of expert knowledge and experience in the decision-making process. -----

As for my point of view, I should say that I lodge myself somewhere between the two positions. In fact, what is missing in both of the viewpoints above is that in a sound political system there should always be a mechanism to make sure both people's will and expertise are included in the decision-making process. By this mechanism I specifically mean the existence of elections, the parliament, and formal and informal supervisory channels.

In conclusion, ----

Coherence: Transitional Words and phrases

A. If the following are used to join two sentences, a comma is needed before them.

but, so, or, and, yet

Example:

He decided to study math, **but** his sister wanted no field of study except dentistry.

B. Instead of the words above, you may use the following as connectors. However, bear in mind that they are preceded by a semicolon or full stop and followed by a comma.

Example:

He decided to study math; **however**, his sister wanted no field of study except dentistry.

He decided to study math. **However**, his sister wanted no field of study except dentistry.

And: in addition, additionally, besides; also; moreover; furthermore

But: however, in contrast; on the contrary

So: therefore; thus; hence; consequently; as a result

Or: otherwise

Yet: nevertheless; nonetheless

Exemplification: for example; for instance

Emphasis: in fact; indeed; as a matter of fact

Order: first, second, third, finally

Use what you have learned about forming compound sentences to improve the following mini-essay, which contains many short, simple sentences. Combine sentences wherever possible. Try to use each of the three methods at least once. There are many possible ways to combine sentences. Use sentient connectors wherever there is an asterisk (*).

Robots

A robot is a mechanical device that can perform boring, dangerous, and difficult tasks. First of all, robots can perform repetitive tasks without becoming tired or bored. They are used in automobile factories to weld and paint. Robots can also function in hostile environments. *

They are useful for exploring the ocean bottom as well as deep outer space. *, robots can perform tasks requiring pinpoint accuracy. In the operating room, robotic equipment can assist the surgeon. For example, a robot can kill a brain tumor or operate on a fetus with great precision.

The field of artificial intelligence is giving robots a limited ability to think and to make decisions. * Robots cannot think conceptually. Robots cannot function independently. Humans have to program them. *They are useless. Therefore, humans should not worry that robots will take over the world-at least not yet.

HOMEWORK

Some people believe that college students should consider only their own talents and interests when choosing a field of study. Others believe that college students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.