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Health and Environment


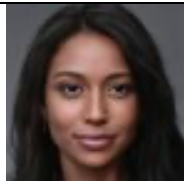
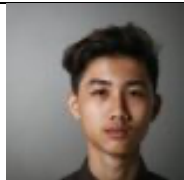
1. To maintain good health

Your professor is teaching a class on social studies. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today, we are going to talk about whether it has become easier to maintain good health than it was in the past. As the economy prospers and technologies evolve, more and more people have come to realize the importance of maintaining good health. Though people nowadays know and care more about health, the problem is, is it more challenging or easier for people to maintain good health today?
 Claire	Claire: I think it has become easier for modern people to keep healthy. Thanks to economic growth, people have enjoyed higher incomes and thus higher living standards. Therefore, most people, compared to people in the past, have more money at their disposal to spend on healthier lifestyles. In other words, they can afford proper medical treatments while they are sick. Besides, they can eat in a more nutritious and balanced way.
 Paul	Paul: Although I share Claire's view that people have become wealthier, I still believe that it has become more challenging for people to maintain good health. Due to technological progress, life has become more convenient: people can do almost anything indoors with just a few taps or clicks. They can just order food and shop online, take online courses, and entertain themselves without heading out to do everything in person, unlike people in the past. As a result, people today exercise much less than ever before, and such laziness, inevitably, has considerably contributed to many more health problems today.

Sample Answer:

I think it has become easier for people to maintain good health nowadays. As Claire says, economic growth enables more people to afford healthier diets and medical care. In addition, thanks to more disposable incomes, people can even spend some money on fitness facilities and professional training sessions. Though Paul does have a point when it comes to the downsides of modern technologies, the bright sides of technological progress can counteract, even outweigh, the downsides. In fact, with easier Internet access, people can get instant access to tons of health information and knowledge. Besides, gadgets like the Apple watch allow people to keep better track of their health conditions. Moreover, a lot of applications allow people to work out anywhere and anytime. In short, people today can better maintain good health than in the past.


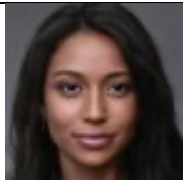
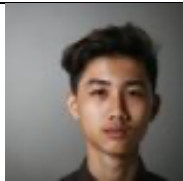
2. To slow down the economy to protect the environment

Your professor is teaching a class on public administration. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	<p>Professor: Humans live in the environment, depending on it as well. We need everything from the environment: food, clothing, medicine, and the list goes on. As the economy develops, we humans are struggling to strike a balance between the economy and the environment. Before the next class, I want you to talk about the following question:</p> <p>Should we slow down economic development to protect the environment?</p>
 Claire	<p>Claire: I think economic development comes before the environment. If people cannot live well enough, they would ensure their survival even at the cost of the environment. Especially in less developed areas, when the slow economic growth can hardly meet people's basic needs, the environment would be at stake. To be more specific, people need food and products to support themselves and their families. When they are short of proper supplies of living essentials, it is understandable that they would grow food and manufacture products to survive, even at the cost of the environment. They are not the ones to blame because survival is the priority of everybody. In this case, the culprit of the worsening environment is the backward economy in such underdeveloped areas.</p>
 Paul	<p>Paul: I still think that the top priority is the environment. Without the environment and everything it has been and will be providing for humans, we cannot even exist, not to mention boosting the economy! For the long-term development and prosperity of human society, we should realize the significance of environmental protection and slow down the economy to better preserve animals, plants, and our planet Earth. Only by protecting the environment can humans and human civilization go a long way.</p>

Sample Answer:

I think economic development is still of greater significance compared to environmental protection. As Claire says, the top priority is the survival and development of humans. If human survival is at stake, there is no way that the environment can be effectively protected. Moreover, if economic growth slows down, people's living standards are going down as well, leading to fewer budgets for the construction of nature reserves or national parks intended for environmental protection and wildlife preservation. Environmental protection needs tons of money, and that comes from a prosperous economy. It is true that human survival and flourishing ride on the environment, but putting more emphasis on the economy does not mean sacrificing the environment completely. In certain phases in human history, businesses and industries developed at the expense of the environment, but it was just temporary. When humans become better off, the priority would naturally switch to balancing the economy and the environment. But still, in human society, humans' well-being always comes first. In short, we should not slow down the economy to protect the environment.

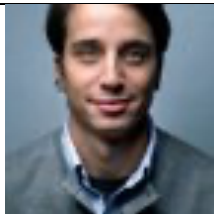
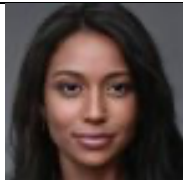
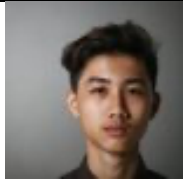
3. How to protect the environment in daily lives

Your professor is teaching a class on public administration. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: As environmental protection develops, more people have come to realize that everybody should play a part in preserving the planet we live on. These years, many people want to protect and improve the natural environment. In terms of what individuals in their daily lives could do if they want to protect the environment, some put forward walking or bicycling instead of driving a car to work or school, while others recommend buying locally grown organic foods grown without pesticides, and which one do you think would work better?
 Lila	Lila: I think walking or cycling instead of driving works better in reducing carbon emissions. Everybody needs to commute, and a lot of people drive every day. If they can switch to walking or riding bicycles, the outcome of such a collective effort would be considerable.
 Steve	Paul: Buying locally grown organic foods is more effective, I think. Growing crops organically means giving up pesticides to get rid of pests, which significantly reduces pollutants that pose great threats to soil and water. Therefore, the food chain could be less contaminated.

Sample Answer:

For individuals to do in their daily lives to protect the environment, I think walking or cycling instead of driving works better than promoting organic foods. Steve did have a point when he talked about how organically grown crops help reduce water and soil pollution. However, he did not see the practicality of the approach. First, organic foods are so much more costly that they are not universally affordable for most people. Besides, organic crop yields are rather small compared to the demand. If organic foods replaced all regular foods, food supplies would be insufficient and people would starve. Lila, by contrast, proposed a much more viable option. In addition to the considerable outcome of the collective effort she mentioned, it is quite feasible. It is true that some people live far away from where they work or go to school, but not everybody does. In fact, quite a number of people live within walking or cycling distance from their workplace or school. Considering the health benefits and the universal lack of exercise nowadays, a lot of people would be fully motivated to do so. In short, walking or cycling instead of driving is a better option than promoting organic foods.


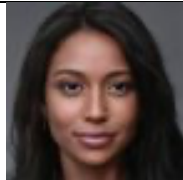
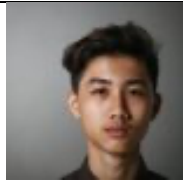
4. To Encourage Home Recycling

Your professor is teaching a class on public policy making. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: As we've previously discussed, sorting and recycling home waste can significantly help reduce pollution and preserve our environment. Though it has become a standard practice in some countries, many people believe that we haven't done enough, and the only way to increase recycling is for governments to enforce strict policies on recycling. Say, if you don't recycle your trash, you may get fined, or even break the law. What's your perspective on this?
 Mia	Mia: I do think strict policies or legal requirement is the only way to raise the recycling rate. Making laws work well in many fields, because people tend to avoid legal consequences or financial punishment. If there is no strict regulation, most people won't take it seriously.
 Joshua	Joshua: Admittedly, government intervention is an important factor in this issue. However, it's not necessarily the only means out there. I think that education can promote recycling in a more fundamental way because people would do it if they know they are doing the right thing.

Sample Answer:

From my perspective, strict policies and laws are not the only way to enhance the recycling of household waste. Just like Mia said, no one likes legal risks and potential financial loss. However, fear-based mechanisms may fail when people figure out means to bypass laws and regulations, considering that sorting and recycling is quite a complicated chore to do. At the end of the day, laws are enforced by people, and their awareness plays an important role in the whole recycling idea. In this sense, education, as Joshua brought up, is definitely the key. I also want to add that education does not only tell people that recycling is morally right but also teaches people how to do it, such as classifying trash and what waste is recyclable, which is probably the most crucial link in the process. In fact, many people do not sort and recycle just because they lack the knowledge involved. With sufficient education gained through campaigns and public service announcements, these people will be able and thus willing to join the cause. In this case, strict regulation will not even be necessary.


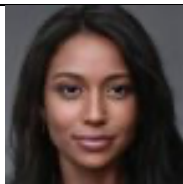
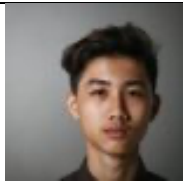
5. To Reduce Stress

Your professor is teaching a class on self-care and well-being. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Mental health has been a major focus in the field of well-being. Understandably, people who live in competitive situations, like college students, are particularly more prone to stress, so today let's talk about stress management. Staying alone or spending time with others, which do you think is better to relax?
 Maria	Maria: I would say that staying alone is more helpful in terms of reducing stress. I believe many people would agree that social activities are actually an important source of stress. Imagine you have to hang out with your friends. You'll have to take into account your friends' preferences and make compromises every now and then. If you relax just by yourself, you can decide what you do and what snack you eat, which to me is truly relaxing.
 Carl	Carl: It is true that social activities can sometimes seem stressful, but I think that kind of stress is far less serious than the "real stress", say when you are facing a major test or you don't have enough money to pay rent. In such cases, people might not be able to relax if they stay alone because they cannot help thinking about the stress. That's when friends are needed to distract a little bit.

Sample Answer:

I would say it is better to relax alone. Maria made an excellent point that the very act of hanging out with others can already bring stress because people have to think of others' will over their own. I want to add that, in fact, social activities can be stressful in other another significant way, peer pressure. To be specific, people are constantly influenced by their peers, such as friends, relatives, or even strangers they see online. For example, when you see that your friend has bought something fancy, you would probably feel the need to buy similar products, and when most of your friends are married, you may feel that you should get married, too. In this sense, people receive pressure just by hanging around their peers. I do agree with Carl that some distraction is a good idea to reduce stress. However, it does not have to be achieved through social interactions. People can always shift their focus to their hobbies. In short, it is better to relax alone.




6. Maintenance of personal health and fitness

Your professor is teaching a class on public health. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor Clarke	<p>Professor:</p> <p>As discussed in class, the concept of health has evolved over time, and with advancements in technology and medicine, it is often believed that staying healthy is easier in modern times. However, some argue that current lifestyles and environmental factors have made it more challenging to maintain good health. In which period would you argue it is easier for people to stay in a healthy condition—at present or in the past? Why?</p>
 Amber	<p>Amber:</p> <p>I would definitely say that it is easier to maintain good health nowadays than in the past. It is important to consider the various factors that contribute to people's health. In the past, access to healthcare was limited and medical knowledge was not as advanced as it is today. Also, people's lifestyles were often less healthy due to factors such as limited access to healthy food and a lack of awareness about the importance of exercise.</p>
 Jonah	<p>Jonah:</p> <p>I hold a different view from Amber and believe that it was actually easier to stay healthy in the past. Most people led healthier, more active lives in the past so there was no need to go the gym in their spare time. There were far fewer sedentary jobs in those days so there was no obsession to keep fit. Also, in terms of the issue of food and diet, there were far fewer additives and processed foods in the past, meaning that people had healthier diets.</p>

Sample Answer:

I personally would vote for Amber's opinion. It is true that there are still numerous obstacles to maintaining good health in today's society. For example, factors such as pollution, stress, and the prevalence of unhealthy food options can lead to a wide range of health issues, from obesity to heart diseases. Also, access to quality healthcare remains an enormous challenge for many individuals, particularly those in low-income communities. Despite these challenges, it is important to acknowledge the fact that there have actually been significant advancements in healthcare and medical technology in recent years. Thanks to these advances, an increasing number of people now have access to a broader range of treatments and preventative measures, such as vaccines and screenings. Furthermore, there is a greater emphasis on healthy living, with more and more people taking an active interest in nutrition and exercise. Also, due to the rise of the internet, such information is now at people's fingertips.

Education




7. Instructional method in high school education

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor Davis	<p>Professor:</p> <p>As we all know, the education system plays a crucial role in shaping the future of any society by providing a strong foundation for the upcoming generations. However, there are different ways of instruction for high school teachers across the nation and this has led to a debate on their merits. Which approach would you argue is better—teacher-centered education or student-centered education? Why?</p>
 Alisa	<p>Alisa:</p> <p>I strongly believe that teacher-centered education is the better approach for high school instruction. In this type of education, the teacher is the expert and the students are there to learn from them. This approach ensures that students receive a comprehensive and structured education that covers all necessary topics. It may seem like a good idea that student-centered education places the focus on the student's interests and preferences, but it often results in a lack of structure and a failure to cover important topics.</p>
 Jason	<p>Jason:</p> <p>Unlike Alisa, I strongly believe that student-centered education is the better approach. I mean, this method prioritizes the needs and interests of the students, allowing them to take an active role in their own learning. It is more likely for them to retain information and develop critical thinking skills. Also, such an education promotes collaboration and communication among peers, preparing students for the real world where teamwork is essential. Therefore, I think the student-centered way of instruction is better.</p>

Sample Answer:

I would subscribe to Jason's idea that student-centered education is much preferable. In addition to the benefits of fostering a supportive community and promoting collaboration, another important point to consider relates to students' learning preferences and the cultivation of their self-assurance during the learning journey. In a traditional lecture-style approach, the teacher asks questions at the end of the session by choosing students at random. This can be intimidating and daunting, especially if students are unsure of the answer and are expected to speak in front of the entire class. In contrast, group work and discussions provide a more conducive environment for students to build their confidence and knowledge before presenting in front of the class. By engaging in group-based conversations and activities, students would certainly feel more confident to speak to the teacher and the class. Therefore, in comparison with the lecture-style approach, student-centered education empowers students to take ownership of their learning and enhances their confidence.




8. Compulsory History Courses

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

	<p>Professor:</p> <p>As discussed in class, knowing history is essential for understanding the present and shaping the future. It provides us with a sense of identity and helps us to understand the complexities of the world we live in. It also helps us to develop critical thinking skills, as we learn to analyze and interpret historical events and their impact on society. Before next class, I would like you to discuss this question:</p> <p>Should studying history be made compulsory for all university students, regardless of their main field of study? Why?</p>
	<p>Amy:</p> <p>I would definitely say that all university students regardless of their major should be required to study history. History teaches us about the successes and failures of past societies, and the lessons we can learn from them. Additionally, studying history promotes empathy and understanding of different cultures and perspectives. By making history a compulsory subject, universities can ensure that all students have a well-rounded education and become informed and engaged citizens.</p>
	<p>Jeremy:</p> <p>I hold a different view from Amy and believe that not every college student should learn history. While history provides valuable insights into the past, it may not be relevant or necessary for students pursuing certain fields of study. For example, a student studying engineering may not benefit from studying ancient civilizations. Also, forcing students to study history may lead to disinterest and lack of engagement, ultimately defeating the purpose of education.</p>

Sample Answer:

I personally would vote for Amy's opinion that history should be made mandatory for all university students. **Jeremy was right when he mentioned that** it may not be closely related to students pursuing certain disciplines, such as computer science and medical science.

However, one should realize the fact that an overwhelming majority of college students today, including those studying science and engineering or art and music, need to do research and write a lot of papers, and attending history classes can definitely provide them with opportunities to learn how to write clearly and with good grammar, thus enhancing their academic writing abilities. **Additionally**, in history classes, students from different majors can learn about the opinions of historical figures or key historical events through lectures, seminars, group discussions, and academic presentations, which can enhance the persuasiveness of their arguments. **Furthermore**, students in different majors can enhance their understanding of their own major by studying the history of these subjects, which can benefit their future study and careers. This, without doubt, can be a great source for learning interest and motivation. 179 words




9. Fields trips in primary education

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 <p>Professor Smith</p>	<p>Professor:</p> <p>As I mentioned in class, field trips have been a staple of primary education for decades. They offer students the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and engage with the world around them. Field trips can take many forms, from visits to museums and art galleries to trips to zoos and historical sites. While some argue that field trips provide hands-on learning experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom, others believe that students can learn just as effectively by staying in the classroom.</p> <p>What is your opinion? Why? Before next class, I would like you to share your idea on the discussion board.</p>
 <p>Anita</p>	<p>Anita:</p> <p>I am of the opinion that it is important to take students on field trips rather than stay in class the whole time. The most important point relates to the need for variety in children's learning experiences. School can become a little repetitive for children and anything that provides novelty and a change from the daily routine is beneficial for the students. Field trips can present the opportunity for an adventure and new experiences.</p>
 <p>Justin</p>	<p>Justin:</p> <p>I hold a different view from Anita and firmly believe that field trips are not necessary for effective learning. In fact, students can learn just as effectively by staying in the classroom, using abundant high-quality online resources, including videos, audios and images. This means that modern technology can provide stimulating and varied learning opportunities without leaving the classroom. Also, field trips can be expensive and time-consuming, which can be a burden for schools and families.</p>

Sample Answer:

I personally would vote for Justin's opinion that keeping primary school children in the classroom is much preferable than taking them out on field trips. Anita was right when she stressed the significance of variety in children's learning, but the importance of their knowledge absorption, which carries more weights, should not be ignored. In fact, the knowledge acquired in the classroom is more systematic and accurate than that gained in field trips. For example, in some classes, such as mathematics, the teacher can explain a concept and demonstrate the process about using of a formula to solve a question directly on the whiteboard. Also, compared with outdoor activities such as climbing and camping, classroom learning is less exhausting for students and more conducive to their knowledge absorption. A second point relates to the safety issues involved in school field trips. There can be problems with taking large groups of students out of the class during the day as students are likely to get lost or injured, making classroom-based lessons safer than field trip alternatives.




10.Impacts of video games on primary education

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor Harris	<p>Professor:</p> <p>As we all know, video games have become an increasingly popular form of entertainment for people of all ages. However, their use in educational settings has been a topic of debate for many years. In recent times, the idea of incorporating video games into the classroom for young children aged 5-10 has gained traction. While some educators believe that video games can be an effective tool for learning, others argue that they are a mere distraction with no real benefit for education. What is your opinion? Why? Before next class, I would like you to share your idea on the discussion board.</p>
 Alice	<p>Alice:</p> <p>I would definitely say that video games can be used to good effect in the classroom at this age. Children love variety and, therefore, teachers should use many different resources in the classroom to help learning. Video games can be a very effective way to grab attention with simulating images and sounds, and getting attention is particularly important with primary age children. Another important consideration is the real-life application of some of the skills practiced when playing video games, such as hand-eye coordination, reactions, and problem solving.</p>
 Joe	<p>Joe:</p> <p>I hold a different view from Alice and firmly believe that video games should not be encouraged as learning tools at primary schools. My initial point refers to the addictive nature of video games for young people. They can dominate attention at the expense of everything else. For this reason, it is problematic to attempt to use them as a classroom learning tool. Another reason concerns the effect on behaviour of some games on children. There is some evidence that violent video games can make some children more aggressive.</p>

Sample Answer:

I personally would vote for Joe's opinion that primary schools should not promote the use of video games as educational aids. In addition to the possibility of children's addiction to video games and display of aggressive behavior, constant exposure to games can easily lead to psychological problems, making students become antisocial. It is widely acknowledged that there is a correlation between excessive video game use and social isolation, depression, and anxiety in children. Furthermore, the negative impact that is worth mentioning is about the impairment of children's health. If children stare at the e-screen for a long time in and after class, chances are that they gradually suffer poor eyesight and obesity, a result from decreased physical activity.

Alice did make a point when emphasizing the attention-grabbing feature of video games in children's learning. However, she fails to realize the fact that long-term playing of electronic games can actually create a wrong sense of belonging to the virtual world, causing students to lose interest in learning real-world knowledge, thus worsening their academic performance.

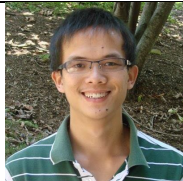
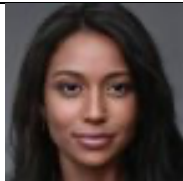
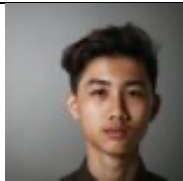
11. Parents or friends?

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today, let's talk about an eternal topic: parent-child relationship. Traditionally, and now still the case in many regions of the world, parents emphasize discipline and even authority when interacting with their children. More and more parents, however, consider their children equal to themselves and make friends with them. Which type of relationship is more conducive to a healthy development of children?
 Claire	Claire: Parents should of course make friends with their kids. That way, children can enjoy a casual atmosphere at home. At school, children are normally stressed out by their school work. When they come home, they deserve a cozy environment instead of "behaving themselves" all the time. Also, if parents treat children as friends, children are more likely to share their thoughts and struggles with their parents, so their parents can provide timely and effective suggestions and help when necessary.
 Paul	Paul: Although I enjoy a good relationship with my parents, I still possess my deepest reverence for them instead of treating them merely as "friends". I think parents should still maintain discipline while getting along well with their children. Discipline is necessary, especially when children are still young, since they lack the concepts of right and wrong. It is their parents' duty to teach what to do and what not to do. Plus, if parents do not discipline their children, they will have a hard time fitting in the world in their adulthood. After all, there are so many rules for them to follow outside their sweet home.

Sample Answer:

I am more inclined to agree with Claire that parents should make friends with their kids. As friends, parents would not be feared by their children, which is easier for both parties. Parents can show their affection for children without constraint, and children are less likely to grow into shy or even timid adults. Also, if parents can offer help and suggestion whenever needed as friends, children would not be overwhelmed by stress or slip into the realm of criminals. As for rules and discipline, if parents treat their children as equal friends, they can more effectively establish common rules for them both to follow. It is true that parents as masters can force kids to abide by the rules set for them. But children might not understand such rules, not to mention sincerely approving of them. As a result, children might just be acting good kids at home, the dominion of their parents. Once out of their parents' sight, they might do even more bad things just for fun or excitement.

Psychology


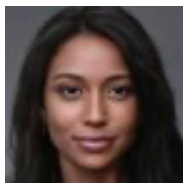
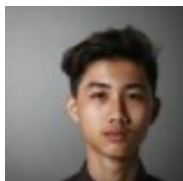
12. Decisive factor for long-term friendship

Your professor is teaching a class on psychology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: When people are asked about the decisive factor in determining the lasting time of friendship, they usually mention something very obvious, like being friendly or kind. But there are thousands of other elements that have a huge impact on how long we maintain our relationship with friends. What factors—other than friendliness and kindness—would you choose as being important in your long-term relationship with your friends? Why?
 Wendy	Wendy: Common interests with friends help us to stay connected over a long time. With common interests, we could have so many shared experiences. For example, if you both love cooking, you could try out a new recipe together. Or every time an episode of your favorite show comes out, you could talk on the phone. We all have moments like this and this shared interest is like an anchor that generates exclusivity between you and your friends, which could cement or solidify the friendship.
 Jacobs	Jacobs: I think long-term friendship requires a reciprocal commitment. That means the exchange of something between people. For example, helping each other during crisis is a decisive factor to deepen our intimacy with friends. When our friends are having a rough week, a phone call, a patient listening, or a care package of snacks to them would help turn a whole week.

Sample Answer:

I don't think we need to have similar interests to be friends. Like my best friend Precious and I, she studies biochemistry and is not that sporty, while I'm athletic. We are completely different, but we are great friends. And I agree with Jacobs that mutual exchange of something is the most important thing in deciding friendship. But we don't necessarily have to help each other out every time the other person is in trouble, it's just not practical. In my opinion, this is a realistic world, whether we could facilitate each other's development determines how long we would maintain the friendship. We need listen to each other and cooperate with each other and move toward a better future. Conversely, if we hang around with weasels and losers, we would be spiraling down and all whine about how wretched life is. But in the long run we are not going anywhere and it's painful. So when we have friends who want the best for the best part of us, we can be together for a long time, probably through our life time.

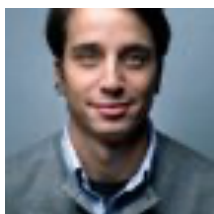
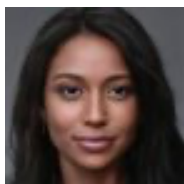
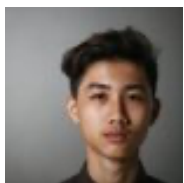
13.Complete honesty with friends

Your professor is teaching a class on psychology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	<p>Professor: Nowadays we talk a lot about how to build relationships with others. And of course, we all want to find ways to establish meaningful and enriching bond with others. Before next class, I would like for you to discuss this question:</p> <p>Is being completely honest with friends helps to solidify the friendship? Or is it considered as being naive and not flexible?</p>
 Helen	<p>Helen: Being brutally honest with friends is the secret to maintaining intimacy with our friends. When we are utterly frank with our friends, we are building mutual trust. I read that a relatively good number of relationships fall apart due to numerous lies, whereas pure sincerity with friends usually guarantees a solid friendship.</p>
 Tim	<p>Tim: Pure honesty is not practical. We probably have encountered situations where we dislike something about our friends intensely. Invariably, we tell our friends how wonderful everything is, to avoid hurting their feelings. Or we compliment our friends for how well they look or express our appreciation for gifts, when we don't really mean it. I think these harmless and well-intended white lies are necessary social lubricant.</p>

Sample Answer:

I agree with Helen that honesty is the best policy. Lying usually jeopardizes friendship. I admit that sometimes white lies serve as social lubricant like Tim has said. But even seemingly harmless lies can have unforeseen consequences. For example, when our friends discover the deceit, they are more likely to feel hurt. Because it makes them feel that we are having a condescending attitude that he or she is not capable of handling life's strikes or turbulences. In addition, after the initial deceit, we need to tell more lies to cover up the first one. And it finally leads to a vicious circle where we just can not tell truths from falsehoods because there are so many lies. Just think about this question: are we willing to give our friends the right or authority to lie to us whenever they think it is for our own good? I think the answer is probably negative.

Sociology


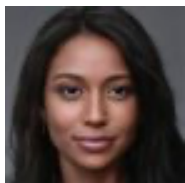
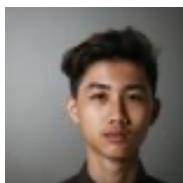
14. Parents' "Help"

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	<p>Professor: We are all under great influence of our parents, especially on the major we choose in college. And of course, parents all have good intentions to get involved in our decision-making process. Before next class, I would like for you to discuss this question:</p> <p>Should parents try to help determine the futures of their children? Or children should be allowed to make their own choices?</p>
 Dalio	<p>Dalio: It's better to let children make their own decisions. Not just because if parents are too protective, they may raise old infant who are incapable of making any important decisions in their life. But also, to build self-esteem or to become confident, children need to learn to make their own judgment. It's our life and we should be responsible for it.</p>
 Phil	<p>Phil: Parents are just helping children to learn about the hard truth in society. They are sophisticated adults and have more experience and more importantly, they love us 100%. And it may not be the best choice, but it definitely is a considerate and thoughtful decision for us. Like when they try to decide the major for us, it's very natural we don't need to fight hard with them, all we need to do is to look at it as a need to pass a narrow training period in college.</p>

Sample Answer:

I think whether we accept parents' help depends on the extent of our maturity. When we are very young, like under the age of 15, parental decision is probably good. Just like if my parents had not forced me to learn piano at the age of 4, I would not have mastered it like I do today and gain much confidence from it. If I were allowed to make my own decision, none of the skills that I have today would probably be gone because I didn't have the self-discipline needed when I was a child. Everything beneficial for my future that I have accomplished is under my parents' guidance and supervision. However, the hard truth is, we would all someday outgrow our parents at certain point when our parents actually don't know any more than we do. I know this sucks, but it's a great opportunity for us to establish a more individual relationship with our parents. We become capable of making our own decisions and parental "advice" would probably become a hurdle in our path. Of course, to avoid hurting our parents' feeling, we could learn to artificially maintain our independency, but just momentarily or when it's necessary.


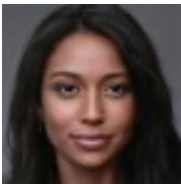
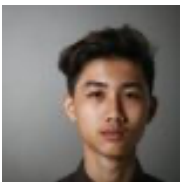
15. Someone (parents or friends) challenges our beliefs

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: As I mentioned in class, we would encounter ideas that are radically different from our own, they may come from our family members or our friends or people around us. When someone challenges our viewpoints, some would get aggressive and try hard to defend their own ideas, while others are willing to embrace new and novel ideas and incorporate them into their own existing knowledge and understanding of the world if their own ideas are wrong. If you were in a similar situation where someone downplay your ideas, what would be your attitude—hold on firm to your own ideas or be willing to change your mind? Why?
 Ross	Ross: I think if others are persuasive, I would be willing to change my mind. We have to admit that we don't know everything and the things we do know may not be true. To become a better person, we should be open-minded towards different voices. For example, if scientists hold firm to their own beliefs, we would be living with all kinds of false hypotheses.
 Jack	Jack: I would probably fight back if others challenge my guiding principles or core values. Because it feels devastated to have our beliefs demolished by others. We would lose our confidence or even our identity if we just give in or compromise. Also, there are weasels and losers out there that are trying to pull us down by attacking our deepest-held beliefs. They make themselves feel better this way.

Sample Answer:

I disagree with Jack, when others challenge our beliefs, we should be aware that our ideas are not our identity. And what we believe is not who we are. In such case, I think we just need to be curious towards new and novel things, and think like a scientist. Basically what scientists do is they make hypotheses and they try to find evidence to either prove or disprove their own hypotheses. In this way, they are not trying to prove they are right or intellectually superior, they are just improving themselves. So I do think Ross is right, we need to be open-minded towards different ideas, they offer us the opportunity to grow and evolve. For example, from the news, we learn that some people believe that vaccination is a kind of conspiracy. They don't get vaccinated, nor do their children. And I used to be one of them. But after the Covid, I start to rethink the situation that whether there will be any chance that I will get a COVID vaccine in my lifetime. I start to weigh the pros and the cons. If Covid has a 100% fatality rate and is highly transmissible, I probably would go for it. To sum up, changing our mind does not always make us happy, but it's the right thing to do to be more adaptable in this world.


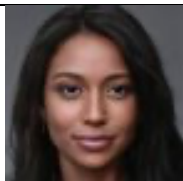
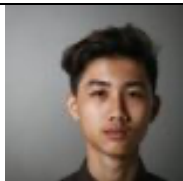
16. How children spend their leisure time

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor James: In recent years, many children would rather stay at home playing video games than go out for activities during their leisure time. Some parents are concerned that too much exposure to electronic products may be detrimental to children's growth. In response to this phenomenon, should children be forced to participate in various outdoor activities (such as sports, gymnastics, clubs, etc.), even if they would rather sit at home and play video games all day?
 Claire	Claire: I think it is a wise move for parents to force their children to get involved in extracurricular activities. Compared with being sedentary all day long, more outdoor time is linked with improved motor development and lower obesity rates and myopia risk. What's more, safely getting some sun also helps children make vitamin D that their bodies need to stay healthy and strong.
 Ben	Ben: I don't think children should be forced to do so. Some children can enjoy themselves when they are involved in a soccer team or a club, but others may not. For example, if a child has not yet adapted to the community or peer clubs, he or she will think that participating in activities with unfamiliar people is very challenging and stressful. Therefore, it is best for them to stay at home and play games to spend their rest days in a relaxing way.

Sample Answer:

In my opinion, Ben is right when he says that for children who are not good at socializing, staying at home is more comfortable. By playing games in the virtual world, they get rid of the pressure from schoolwork or get a sense of achievement after completing the final stage. On the other hand, from my perspective, online games can only be a small part of children's lives. If they are considered as the only leisure activities for children, the problems are also enormous. Specifically, immoderate dependence on electronic games not only leads to health issues such as vision problems and obesity, but also affects children's personality development, leaving them at a loss when communicating face to face with others. Therefore, I think that it is necessary for parents to force their children to engage in outdoor activities, through which children develop social skills that would benefit them even when they grow older.

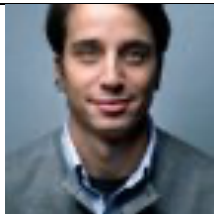
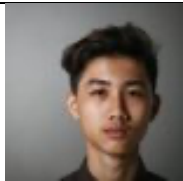
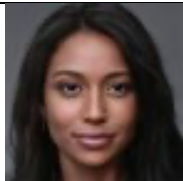
17. News events

Your professor is teaching a class on history&culture. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	<p>Dr. Bruce</p> <p>With the development of social media and electronic devices, people can get access to news whenever and wherever they are. However, among all the new reports, most of them may have nothing to do with people's daily life. Do you think people should know about events happening around the world even if they have little influence on their daily lives?</p>
 Lysol	<p>Lysol:</p> <p>I think it is important for one to learn from others' experience, so that we can prepare ourselves if one day the same thing happens to us. Besides, as the globalization starts to bloom, it is fair to say that one can make influence throughout the world, let alone a single event. For example, the increasing price of wheat in England may in the end affect the cereal price in Taiwan.</p>
 Kathy	<p>I don't think people need to know about news that has little impact on their lives. First, this is a waste of time. The news content is always illustrated with pictures or videos, attracting readers to read, which takes a lot of time. These hours could have been used for work, study, or exercise. Moreover, people cannot determine whether the information is true or not, thus being misled by fake news.</p>

Sample Answer:

It is true that judging the accuracy of news is quite challenging for ordinary people, as Kathy mentioned, but she might ignore the fact that modern people are capable of referring to different media outlets to seek the truth. I am of the opinion Lysol gave that it is important to learn from others' experience and prevent a repetition. The famous example is the Tsunami that happened in Japan years ago, which made many families torn apart and buildings washed out. That is when the public came to realize the great dangers embedded in nuclear power. Governments in different countries made necessary inspection in all the nuclear power plants to make the place safer. What I want to add is that the habit of reading news also improves our academic performance. If we have an intense inclination of the news happened in the global world, even though they seem have little influence on our daily lives, such news concerning economy, military and politics is likely to trigger our interests to acquire more knowledge in a broader domain. Thus, it could be noted that events happen in other countries can surely teach us a lesson and help us in academic development.


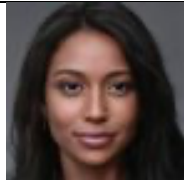
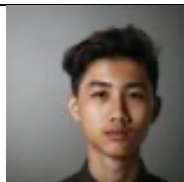
18.Cultural diversity

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Over the next few weeks, we are going to learn about the diverse culture of different countries all over the world. Of course, the culture diversity imposes tremendous effects on the development of human society. Before the next class, here is a question for the class discussion board: what do you think is the most significant effect of learning about another culture?
 Claire	Claire: I think that the main effect that learning about another culture has is to help us have a better understanding of another country's history, tradition and development, which is beneficial for our academic learning. When dealing with academic issues, the in-depth understanding of another culture can help us be more insightful.
 Paul	Paul: In my opinion, knowing about another culture is an effective way to broaden our horizons and expand our knowledge in different fields. Last week I read a book about American history, I learned about some significant historical events and figures in this nation, which was interesting and fascinating.

Sample Answer:

Personally speaking, I believe that a deeper understanding of another culture is conducive for our personal development due to the fact that we will be more acceptable and respectful to different cultures. Obviously, the historical development of different cultures varies from many aspects, which means that knowing nothing about cultural diversity will definitely hinder our long-term development since the society is never monocultural. Accepting the cultural differences can effectively help us be more adaptive, especially considering the spread of globalization. On top of that, respecting the tradition and conventions of another culture plays a vital role in our interaction with people from distinctive cultural backgrounds. With the advancement of society, it is common that we many encounter people coming from another cultural background during our academic life or career. Thus, having a general understanding of another culture is crucial for us to achieve academic and career success. Therefore, undoubtedly, knowing about another culture will effectively contribute to our self-improvement.


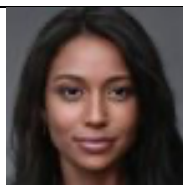
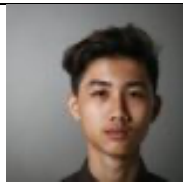
19. Learn about another culture

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: We are all exposed to diverse culture especially with the widespread of internet. Of course, there are a variety of ways to get a better understanding of another culture. Before the next class, here is a question for the class discussion board: what do you think is the most effective way to learn about another culture?
 Claire	Claire: In my opinion, traveling to a country with a different cultural background is an effective way to expand our knowledge in this culture. Having a trip to another country is a direct way to have a greater exposure to a new culture, since we will have the opportunity to interact with local people coming from another cultural background.
 Paul	Paul: I think that reading books in another language can help us have a better understanding of another culture. Last week I read a book about Japanese culture, I learned about some significant historical events and figures in its different dynasties, which helped me get an in-depth understanding of Japanese culture.

Sample Answer:

Personally speaking, I believe that interacting with people from another cultural background on the online social media is the most effective and efficient method to get an in-depth comprehension of another culture. Obviously, with the widespread of internet, the online social network provides us with an appropriate platform and a comfortable environment to contact people from diverse cultural backgrounds. There is no doubt that most people lack of the opportunity to communicate with foreigners coming from a different culture in real world. However, with the aid of online social media, it is possible to connect with strangers, including those from another country. Thus, Keeping the constant interaction and establishing a stable relationship with a person from another culture is conducive for us to expand our knowledge in this culture. Accordingly, regarding the busy schedule of individuals living in modern society, connecting with local people from a different culture under the help of online social network can be considered as the most effective approach to learn about another culture.

History&Culture


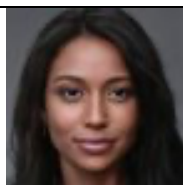
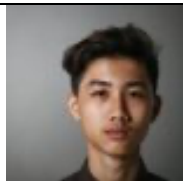
20.Preserving old buildings

Your professor is teaching a class on history&culture. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Dr. Stevenson: In our last class, we talked about famous historical sites and artifacts around the world. Now I want you to think about one thing and have a discussion: Do you think the government should spend money on preserving all the old buildings and sites rather than building new constructions? Why?
 Hailey	Hailey: I totally agree with this statement. Old buildings and sites are a reflection of a country's history. So, it makes perfect sense to spend money on preserving them. Think about this. When we are all old and our grandchildren ask about our history, wouldn't it be better to take them to the sites than just showing them pictures?
 Cameron	Cameron: To be honest, I don't think it's necessary to spend money on preserving old buildings. We are currently in such a fast changing world where histories and miracles are being made every second, which makes it our priority to make economic and technological breakthroughs. Anything would soon become old and abandoned in a world like this. So, there's no need to spend money preserving old buildings.

Sample Answer:

I think this depends on whether this country or city is economically developed. On one hand, if we are talking about a place that is fully developed, like cities in the western Europe, then there is no doubt the government should spend money on preserving old buildings. Take Norway. The Norwegian government spends millions of dollars per year on the preservation of old buildings and artifacts, since it doesn't have to allocate too much a proportion of its financial budget to economic growth. On the other hand, if the region in question is still hovering on the brink of poverty, it would be insane to ask its government for more than spending money on feeding and sheltering its people. For example, we know that there are some African countries out there still fighting disease, famine and war. Even though they have some really old historical buildings and sites, what benefit would preserving them bring if there's no people there to appreciate them eventually?

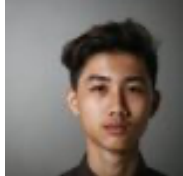
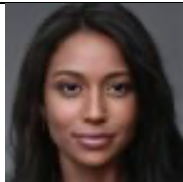
21. Learning world history

Your professor is teaching a class on history & culture. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Dr. McGill: As I was saying, some universities don't have classes where students can learn about world history. However, some universities require students to take a course on world history in order to graduate. I want you to have a discussion about this and tell me do you think all students should learn about world history at university.
 Steve	Steve: I believe all students should learn about world history at university. Through learning, we can have a better understanding of the heritage of humankind, and thus having a clear mind about where we came from and where we are heading. In my opinion, this benefit is universal.
 Monica	Monica: I don't think all students should learn about world history at university. Some students like myself just aren't that interested in culture and history. We prefer to spend our time on doing science experiments and field research. So, if it becomes a compulsory thing, it's likely to be a waste of time for us.

Sample Answer:

Learning world history is indeed quite significant for students, but I don't think all students should be required to learn about it. It should depend on whether the student's major or future career has anything to do with it. For one thing, if a student majors in such fields as art, literature or design, then learning world history should be taken into consideration because it would inspire them to create better works. Knowing what has happened where and when in world history would encourage these students to think and try to draw from the past experience. On the contrary, if a student majors in chemistry or physics, what really matters to them would be hands-on experience, like experimenting over and over again before coming to the final conclusion. Learning all about world history and what people before them have done wouldn't really help if they don't carry on by themselves. Therefore, I believe not all students should be required to learn about world history.

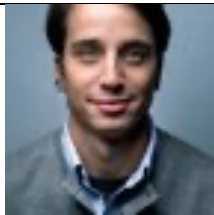
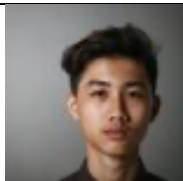
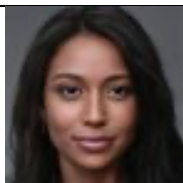
22. Learning from the past

Your professor is teaching a class on history&culture. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Dr. Jones: In a world full of changes and possibilities, we face challenges and problems all the time. And people are trying so hard to find solutions to various problems. Many hold that it is important for a country to learn from the past in order to solve the problems of the present and even the future. How do you feel about this statement? And why?
 Ronald	Ronald: I think it is absolutely true that we should learn from the past. The past is like a mirror that reflects the mistakes that our ancestors had made and the lessons that we as descendants can learn from. Therefore, in my point of view, we should definitely learn from the past and then deal with present problems.
 Leah	Leah: Personally, I don't think it's wise to linger over the past. If we plan to solve problems of the present and the future, we should stick to more practical solutions which can be drawn from our understanding and interpretation of the problems themselves. Past history might be outdated. So, I think it is best to find avenues out of our current situations instead of past ones.

Sample Answer:

Honestly, I think it depends on the value a country's history can offer its people. For one thing, if the country in question has had quite successful experience in particular areas, then it is safe to learn from its past. For example, if the United Kingdom wants to make a difference in the ongoing Industry 4.0, it sure can draw some ideas from its own past, since the very first industrial revolution started right there in England. For another, when a country failed in or knew next to nothing about a specific aspect, perhaps it is not wise to derive anything from its own history. Instead, it might as well refer to other countries' experience or just move on on its own. For instance, there are some countries in this world that had the awful experience of being colonized by intruders. It is best, in my opinion, for these countries to move on and learn from powerful countries so that they wouldn't be facing the same fate ever again.

Technology and Media


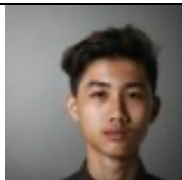
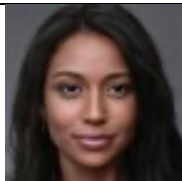
23.Social Media

Your professor is teaching a class on social studies. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today, we're going to talk about whether it's better to keep a record of your own experiences by updating pictures and information on social networking sites or not. Some people believe that sharing their experiences and activities on social media is a great way to keep a record of their lives, while others prefer to keep their experiences private. Which do you prefer, and why?
 David	David: I prefer to keep my experiences private. I believe that personal experiences are something to be enjoyed in the moment and shared only with the people who are close to me. Additionally, I think that sharing too much personal information online can lead to privacy and security concerns. It's important to maintain some level of privacy and control over what information is available about oneself online.
 Karen	Karen: I disagree with David; I think sharing experiences online is a great way to stay connected with friends and family who might not live close by. Not only that, but social media provides an easy way to track and reminisce about our experiences. Some people might say that sharing online indicates a lack of intimacy, but I would argue that anyone who's truly close to us will appreciate the opportunity to keep up with our lives.

Sample Answer:

It is true that social media can offer opportunities for us to connect with old friends and strengthen our bond. However, I think that uploading records on social media also leads to security problems at the same time. By that I mean every time people post a photo or update their status, this may open the door to fraud, identity theft, and breaches of privacy. My younger sister's experience can serve as an example. She often posted some pictures of her personal life on a social media application called Instagram, ranging from traveling experiences to birthday parties at her apartment. However, this made it possible for some frauds to collect her personal information (e.g. her family address and mobile phone number), which may pose a potential danger to her and even her relatives. Later on, as she posted more and more pictures containing her personal information on the internet, many frauds managed to steal her identity and cheat other people.


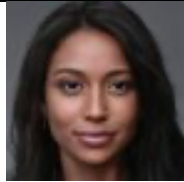
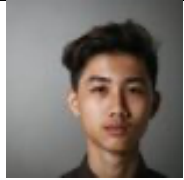
24.Social Media

Your professor is teaching a class on social studies. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today we're going to talk about the impact of social media on society. Some people believe that social media has positive effects by bringing people closer together and facilitating communication. Others argue that social media has negative effects on mental health and social interaction. What is your opinion on the issue?
 Mia	Mia: I believe that social media has a mostly positive impact on society. Social media connects people who may not otherwise be able to communicate, and it allows individuals to express themselves and share their experiences with others. Social media has also become an important tool for social activism and raising awareness about important issues. While there may be some negative effects on mental health and social interaction, these can be mitigated through responsible use of social media.
 Jake	Jake: I disagree with Mia's view. Social media has mostly negative effects on society. Social media has been linked to negative mental health outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and decreased self-esteem. It also fosters a culture of comparison and competition, leading to feelings of inadequacy and dissatisfaction. Social media can also be a source of disinformation and fake news, which can have detrimental effects on individuals and society as a whole.

Sample Answer:

In my opinion, social media has become an integral part of our lives and has significant impacts, both positive and negative ones on society, and basically, this depends on how it is used. On the positive side, it has brought people closer together, making it easy to stay in touch with friends and family who may be far away. It also provides a platform for businesses to connect with customers, and enables individuals to express themselves creatively. However, there are also negative impacts, including the spread of misinformation, cyberbullying, and addiction. Social media can also lead to feelings of loneliness and social isolation, as individuals spend more time on their devices than interacting with others face to face. Worse, social media can perpetuate the feeling of FOMO (fear of missing out). When people see their friends and acquaintances participating in activities without them, it can cause feelings of loneliness and exclusion. (151 words)


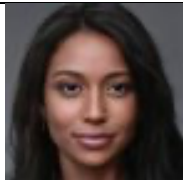
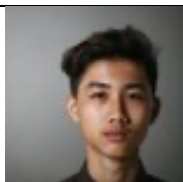
25.Video games

Your professor is teaching a class on technology and media. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: For this week's discussion, let's think about how playing video games affects children's development. Some parents concern that video games have tremendous negative effects on children's learning while some people experts claim that video games are beneficial for children's development. Before the next class, here is a question for the class discussion board: do you think video games have more positive or negative effects on children?
 Claire	Claire: I think that playing video games is harmful for children's development. As we all know, a lot of children are addicted to playing computer and cellphone games because they lack of the self-control ability, which hinders their learning. Also, children will be lazier and unwilling to do exercise in free time.
 Paul	Paul: In my opinion, playing video games is beneficial for children since it is an effective way for them to release relax. It is common that most children are under great pressure due to the busy schedule, so playing video games is significant for them to release the stress and refresh themselves.

Sample Answer:

Personally speaking, I believe that the benefits brought up by playing video games outweigh the drawbacks, especially considering children's long-term development. In addition to relaxation, playing video games can also contribute to children's brain training and overall development. For one thing, by remembering the complicated operation rules in games, children's hand-eye coordination can be improved and their ability to fulfill multi-tasks can also be effectively enhanced. For another, playing video games provides children with a great opportunity to interact with others and establish new relationships in the virtual world, which is helpful for them to relieve the stress gained from study and develop their social skills. By interacting with people in different age groups or from diverse cultural background, children can learn to be more acceptable and respectful in their future interpersonal relationships. Although the potential negative impacts caused by the addiction of playing video games cannot be ignored, the problem can be effectively avoided with the supervision of teachers and parents, especially when stricter regulations are set. Therefore, it is obvious that playing video games exert more positive influences on children.

Business


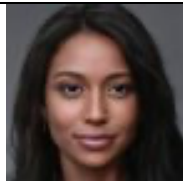
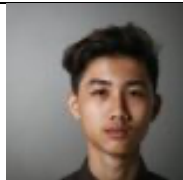
26.Job-hunting

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today, we're going to talk about the best way to find a job in a new city. There are three main methods that are commonly used: asking friends for job leads, searching for job ads online or in print, and sending a letter of introduction or resume to a company you're interested in. Which method do you think is the most effective and why?
 Sara	Sara: In my experience, the best way to find a job in a new city is by reaching out to your network of friends, family, and acquaintances. By asking for job leads, you can tap into the hidden job market and find opportunities that may not be advertised publicly. Additionally, having a personal connection can help you stand out in the job search process and give you an edge over other candidates.
 David	David: I disagree. I think the most effective way to find a job in a new city is to search for job ads online or in print. Job ads are posted by companies that are actively seeking to fill positions, so you know that there is an actual job opening to apply to. Additionally, many job search websites allow you to filter your search by location, skills, and other factors to narrow down your options. While friends and personal connections can certainly be helpful, job ads provide a more direct route to a potential job opportunity. (95 words)

Sample Answer:

I agree that asking friends for job leads is the most effective way to find employment in a new city, as Sara suggested. This approach not only gives an advantage over other candidates, but it also provides reliable information about a position. Recruitment ads can be misleading, exaggerating details to attract candidates, and online job postings can be outdated and irrelevant, as I experienced last year. I spent three days contacting recruiters and communicating about work details, only to find out that many of the job postings were no longer relevant. As for directly sending resumes to companies, it can be ineffective as well since there is no guarantee that they are hiring. Therefore, networking with friends and acquaintances offers valuable insights into the hiring process, making it the most reliable way to tap into job opportunities in a new city.

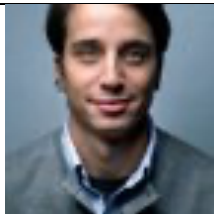
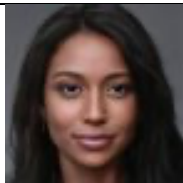
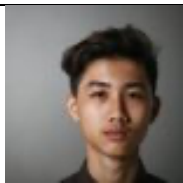
27. Job Satisfaction

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today we're going to talk about work-life balance and job satisfaction. Some people believe that employees should prioritize work above all else to be successful, while others argue that a healthy work-life balance is essential for job satisfaction and overall well-being. What is your opinion on the issue?
 Emily	Emily: I believe that a healthy work-life balance is essential for job satisfaction and overall well-being. When employees are able to prioritize their personal lives and relationships, they are more likely to be happy and fulfilled. In addition, a positive work-life balance can reduce stress and burnout, leading to higher productivity and better job performance.
 David	David: I disagree with Emily's view. Employees should prioritize work above all else to be successful. Success requires hard work, dedication, and a willingness to make sacrifices. Those who prioritize their personal lives and relationships over work are less likely to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.

Sample Answer:

Although I agree with David that being diligent and dedicated are crucial for success in one's career, I don't think work should always take priority over everything else. Indeed, work is an important part of our lives that provides a foundation for a decent life, helps us develop skills in various fields, and can bring a sense of fulfillment. However, placing too much emphasis on success can cause stress and even lead to utilitarianism, where people only value things that are useful to them. Nowadays, sudden death has become more common in our society, and indifference between people is widespread. Besides, many families are separated, with children left behind and parents waiting for a hard-earned family reunion. In fact, people's wholehearted devotion to their jobs is not making them happier. Therefore, I agree with Emily that a positive work-life balance is key to a fulfilling life. With more peace, tranquility, and support from family and friends, people tend to have higher satisfaction with both their life and work, which can lead to better physical and mental health and even higher productivity at work.


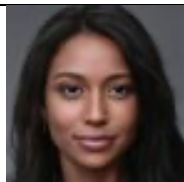
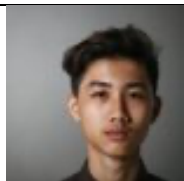
28.A Shortened Workweek

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today we're going to talk about a shortened workweek. Some people believe that a shortened workweek can improve work-life balance, job satisfaction, and productivity, while others argue that it may have negative impacts on businesses and the economy. What is your opinion on the issue?
 Sarah	Sarah: I believe that a shortened workweek can improve work-life balance, job satisfaction, and productivity. By reducing the number of hours worked per week, employees have more time to focus on their personal lives and responsibilities, leading to less stress and burnout. Additionally, the resulting increase in job satisfaction and motivation can lead to higher productivity and better job performance.
 John	John: I disagree with Sarah's view. A shortened workweek may have negative impacts on businesses and the economy. Fewer hours worked means less output, which can lead to lower profits and economic growth. Additionally, businesses may not be able to afford to pay employees for the same amount of work done in a shorter time period, leading to decreased wages and layoffs.

Sample Answer:

In today's fast-paced work culture, many employees desire a shortened workweek to achieve a better work-life balance. However, if their salary is reduced accordingly, the benefits of such an arrangement may be overshadowed. While as Sarah suggests, shorter working hours could lead to higher productivity, from my perspective, this is not always the case in reality. More likely, a reduction in work hours could lead to indolence and a lack of dedication, ultimately lowering performance levels. As a result, employers may not be willing to pay the same amount of compensation for reduced output. Moreover, there are always individuals who are willing to sacrifice personal leisure time in exchange for higher pay or promotions. If a less demanding work schedule becomes widespread, these employees may be at a disadvantage in the job market. Considering these factors, while a shortened workweek may seem like an attractive option, it is important to carefully consider the potential consequences before pursuing such an arrangement. (160 words)

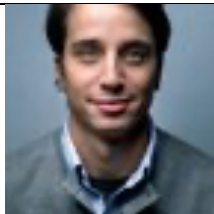
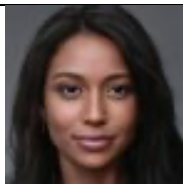
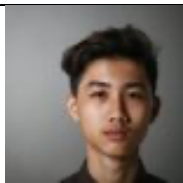
29.Job-sharing

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today we're going to talk about job-sharing. Some people believe that job-sharing can improve work-life balance and job satisfaction, while others argue that it may have negative impacts on businesses and the economy. What is your opinion on the issue?
 Karen	Karen: I believe that job-sharing can improve work-life balance and job satisfaction. By sharing a job with another person, employees can reduce the number of hours worked per week, allowing for more time to focus on personal responsibilities and interests. Additionally, job-sharing can increase flexibility, reduce stress and burnout, and improve overall well-being.
 Tom	Tom: I disagree with Karen's view. Job-sharing may have negative impacts on businesses and the economy. It can increase costs related to training and management, as well as reduce productivity and efficiency. Additionally, job-sharing may lead to difficulties in communication and collaboration between employees, leading to decreased job performance and lower business profits.

Sample Answer:

Although Karen suggests that job-sharing is an ideal way to achieve work-life balance, as Tom points out, it is more likely to have negative impacts on individuals and the economy as a whole. While sharing a job with a partner can allow for responsibilities such as taking care of children and elderly parents, pursuing hobbies and interests, and spending more time with family and friends, these benefits may be outweighed by the decrease in job security. This is because job-sharing inevitably requires more time spent synchronizing work progress, which can lead to lower productivity and dissatisfaction from supervisors. This, in turn, may increase the risk of losing one's job when sharing responsibilities with a partner. Moreover, if job-sharing becomes prevalent across various industries, productivity throughout society may be reduced, impeding long-term economic growth. Therefore, the potential benefits of job-sharing are likely to be overshadowed by its drawbacks.

Political Science


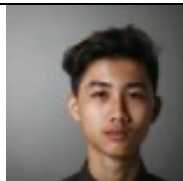
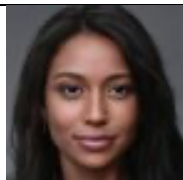
30. Banning unhealthy food

Your professor is teaching a class on Political Science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	<p>Dr. Lopez</p> <p>For the past few decades, people have shown a great interest towards unhealthy cousins and soft drinks. It is said that local shops are highly responsible for this trend and thus, Some individuals think that these outlets should not be permitted to freely sell such scientifically proven detrimental things, whereas others are against. What is your opinion?</p>
 Andy	<p>I believe unhealthy food and beverages should not be sold. The reason is that people are suffering from lots of diseases by eating them. For example, the rate of people developing heart disease, obesity and diabetes has been increasing alarmingly. Many researchers point out that causes of death of human beings are junks items. Besides, many shops try to sell cheap unhealthy food just to make profits. Thus, the government should impose strict rules on selling unhealthy products.</p>
 Jane	<p>Jane: In today's fast-paced life where both the parents are working, these foods come as a handy option. Although they are not good for health, a small amount doesn't affect the body much. What's more, some big brands like Mc Donald's and Pizza Hut have many outlets across the globe, which helps the government in dealing with unemployment by creating jobs and contribute to the country's economy and GDP. Thus, stopping them to sell products can affect the economy.</p>

Sample Answer:

I agree with Andy's statement that unhealthy foods are harmful to human health, but a small amount does not affect the body much. To purchase what kind of food depends on individual choices, not what shops provide. Even if shops are no longer allowed to sell unhealthy foods, I believe that people who are addicted to alcohol and fried foods can still find ways to purchase them. What's worse, it would leave people a feeling that their freedom of choice was taken. In addition, to curb junk food consumption would be a complete failure. This is because it can be difficult to determine where to draw the line as to what constitutes junk food. Foods vary considerably in terms of their nutritional value. Thus, it could be challenging to create a universal definition of what junk food is. Therefore, a better way to handle junk food is to make laws more strict about ingredient labels. Perhaps require foods with little nutritional value to have their nutrition facts be bolder and in a bright colour.


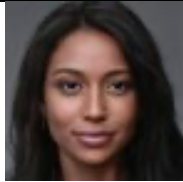
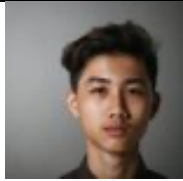
31.Public vs Private Transport

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: Today we're going to talk about public and private transportation. Some people believe that public transportation is essential for reducing traffic congestion and promoting sustainable transportation options. Others argue that private transportation is necessary for individual freedom and convenience. What is your opinion on the issue?
 Lisa	Lisa: I believe that public transportation is essential for reducing traffic congestion and promoting sustainable transportation options. Public transportation provides an affordable and accessible option for individuals to get around, particularly in urban areas where traffic congestion is a major problem. Public transportation also reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality, and promotes a more sustainable way of living.
 Tom	Tom: I disagree with Lisa's view. Private transportation is necessary for individual freedom and convenience. Private transportation allows individuals to travel on their own schedules, at their own pace, without the inconvenience of waiting for public transportation. Additionally, some individuals may have unique travel needs or work in industries that require private transportation, such as construction or delivery.

Sample Answer:

I totally agree with Tom's idea. Although the increased use of cars has caused serious consequences for our environment, it is unrealistic for the government to put a ban on car ownership or use since cars have been so important in our daily life. When it comes to convenience, private transportation should be placed at the top of the list. Cars and motorcycles can make people move freely for leisure activities such as shopping, visiting friends, and traveling without depending on fixed schedules of public transportation systems or waiting for the bus in the cold or in the burning sun. Also, more people live far away from their workplaces due to the expansion of cities and towns. Driving to work is one of the most reliable and efficient choices that they have if they want to arrive at work on time.


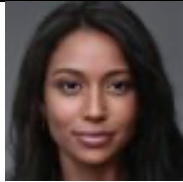
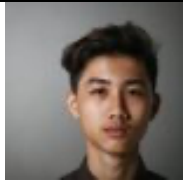
32. Funds for education

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should

- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. You have ten minutes to write.

 Professor	Professor: For this week's discussion, let's think about the allocation of government budget to education. Many countries now lay more emphasis on improving education, then comes the discussion whether college tuition fees should be totally paid by government revenue. Here is a question for the class discussion board: do you think university fees should be completely paid by the government?
 Claire	Claire: I think college tuitions should be totally covered by taxes instead of charging every individual student. For some families, paying for tuition fees is still a financial burden since it keeps increasing in the past decades, so if the government can pay for it, the financial stress for some parents can be relieved, especially those from rural and remote areas.
 Paul	Paul: Although I share Claire's view that tuition fees keeps increasing, I believe that it is not reasonable for the government to pay for it. In my opinion, the government have already allocated a large amount of money to support education, such as building libraries and research centers in a lot of universities. Also, the government provides sufficient financial aids such as scholarship and fellowship for students from poor families. So, it is unnecessary for the government to pay the tuition fees for all students.

Sample Answer:

Personally speaking, I believe that it is not a wise move for the government to pay for all university students' tuition fees. Admittedly, if the government distribute sufficient funds, the economic stress for students from less advantageous background can be alleviated, However, this will absolutely increase the government's financial burden, leading to the result that less funding can be devoted into other areas such as public transportation, medical care and environment conservation. Considering the limited budget of government revenue, it is not reasonable to invest such a large amount of money in paying for college tuitions. Besides, for those students from rural and remote areas, in addition to scholarship and fellowship, they can also earn money by taking part-time jobs, which can effectively enrich their life experience and cultivate their independent ability. Therefore, there is no need for the government to allocate a large sum of money to pay for the tuition fees for all college students.