

Essay Writing for a Score of 6.0 on the TOEFL and TWE

Tutored Essay Writing Program

This essay-writing program has been thoughtfully devised with content subdivided into manageable, mutually-reinforcing units in order to maximise your studying benefit. Each unit has been designed to allow completion in one single study session consisting of 1-2 hours duration, and this is our expert recommendation to you in how to manage your studying while a member of this program.

If you try to complete extra units, you will likely not retain important points and hence your skills and score will NOT increase. If you attempt less than this recommended quota, you may not have time to finish in the limited time allotted in this intensive program.

You are welcome and encouraged to study each unit as many times as you need. Do make sure that you are remembering to factor in time to complete the practice section following each lesson: it is extremely important to put what you have learned into practice; indeed, the essay writing tool you will use in Sessions 4 to 15 is the means by which we will monitor your progress. So, be responsible about your online studying, be serious about your established goals and be assured in the knowledge that your future is moving ahead on the right track. Good luck in your studies!

In this Intensive 15-Session Program, you will receive 3 study sessions and then 12 practice sessions.

The 3 study sessions will include:

Session 1 --

How the test is scored, what the markers are looking for in your answer, and how to make the highest score of 6, followed by an outline of the next two sessions which give detailed step-by-step directions on how to write the essay.

Session 2 --

A complete breakdown of the six different types of questions you could get on the test, how to recognize what type it is, what is required to answer them correctly, and examples of what the questions will look like followed by a quiz on Essay Types.

Session 3 --

How to develop the essay step-by-step using the basics of writing a good essay, which includes the introduction, body, and conclusion. These steps will be integrated with what you learned in Study Sessions 1 and 2.

The 12 practice sessions:

In each of the 12 essay-writing sessions you will be given a different, random topic to write on for 30 minutes. The list of topics comes from the TOEFL/TWE bulletins and may even include the topic in your actual test. Remember, when you take the test you will NOT have a choice of the topic you write on so you won't know the type of question you will get; but after completing this course, you will have the tools to:

- recognize the type of question,
- know how to answer the question, and
- develop the essay from the introduction to the conclusion .

Just writing essays will NOT help you improve your score. You must know HOW to answer them correctly. When you have completed Study Sessions 1, 2, and 3 (and NOT before), you will start your essay-writing sessions to practice what you have learned - how to score higher on the TOEFL and the TWE!

Good luck in your studies!

Study Session 1 - The Writing Section of the TOEFL

Writing Section
Essay Scores
Writing Strategies
Writing Section

The Writing Section of the TOEFL or the TWE measures the ability to write in English, including the ability to:

- generate,
- organize, and
- develop ideas by supporting those ideas with examples or evidence, and finally to
- compose a response to one assigned topic in standard written English.

Let us discuss these abilities one at a time.

1. "Generate" means "produce, create, cause, make, or manufacture". This means that you must be able to write an essay that answers the question asked using your own ideas and thoughts. You must be able to express those thoughts and ideas with words to generate an essay in English. The essay question should be answered carefully. You should do your best to write about what the essay question asks for. An essay that is not

about the topic presented will receive a score of "0," and this will have a serious effect on the Structure/Writing score. In Session 2 - Understanding the Essay Question, we will show you the 6 different types of questions you could get on the test and how to answer them. The readers will also judge essays on how the ideas are presented or organized and developed as well as on the use of language.

2. Essays are judged on organization. If an essay is well organized, a reader will be able to read from the beginning to the end without becoming confused. In Session 3 - Parts of an Essay we will show you step-by-step how to organize your essay.

3. A term used in the scoring guide is "development."

Development is the gradual expansion of an idea throughout an essay, not simply the number of words written. The same ideas can be communicated in various ways, depending on skill with vocabulary and sentence structure. You should try to cover the topics as well as you can within your own abilities. Essay readers judge how well details, examples, and reasons support or illustrate the points being made. We will show you how to develop your essay in Session 3 - How to Write Good Body Paragraphs.

4. The essay will also be judged on the use of language. Naturally the readers will notice grammatical errors and the number of errors in a paper. They judge whether the errors make the meaning of the essay difficult to understand. They also judge the variety, effectiveness, and appropriateness of the sentence structures and vocabulary used in an essay.

Essay Scores

The essay rating comprises one half of the Structure/Writing score; it is also reported separately on the score report, for informational purposes, as some universities require the essay score separately. The readers will score the essay with a rating of 1 to 6. In this program we are going to discuss the score of 6 ONLY because that is what you will strive for. Let us look at what the readers require to get a score of 6:

6 - An essay at this level

1. effectively addresses the writing task:

This means that you must be able to write an essay that answers the question asked using your own ideas and thoughts and to be able to express those thoughts with words to generate an essay. To do this you MUST understand the question. This will be explained in detail in Session 2 - Understanding the Essay Question.

2. is well organized and well developed: Essays are judged on organization. If an essay is well organized, a reader will be able to read from the beginning to the end without becoming confused. In Session 3 - Parts of an Essay we will show you step-by-step how to organize your essay. Development is the gradual expansion of an idea throughout an essay, not simply the number of words written.

3. uses clearly appropriate details to support a thesis or illustrate ideas: Essay readers judge how well details, examples, and reasons support or illustrate the points being made. We will show you how to develop your essay in Session 3 - How to Write Good Body Paragraphs.

4. displays consistent facility in the use of language: The essay will also be judged on the use of language. The readers will notice grammatical errors and the number of errors in a paper. They judge whether the errors make the meaning of the essay difficult to understand.

5. demonstrates syntactic variety and appropriate word choice, though it may have occasional errors: They also judge the variety, effectiveness, and appropriateness of the sentence structures and vocabulary used in an essay.

6. The essay will also be judged on the use of language. Naturally the readers will notice grammatical errors and the number of errors in a paper. They judge whether the errors make the meaning of the essay difficult to understand. They also judge the variety, effectiveness, and appropriateness of the sentence structures and vocabulary used in an essay.

The three ratings, 4, 5, and 6 will not be covered in this program as they are language skills that you will have developed over a long period of time. Your ability to do well on these three ratings is dependant on your language training and the length of practice time you have had. **HOWEVER**, if you feel that you need help on grammar and structure, we recommend that you read your TOEFL Study Guide and do the exercises there. Your tutor **WILL** point out grammatical errors on your essays and provide you with some feedback on these areas.

Writing Strategies

You can also view the section on Writing Strategies for further information on essay topics, choice of style, a breakdown of all 6 scores, and more.

OK, let's recap what we have covered in this session.

You have learned how to get a score of 6. You must:

1. understand the question so that you can answer it correctly;
2. organize the essay so that it is clear;
3. develop the essay using details, examples, and reasons to support or illustrate the points being made.

We recommend that you read this section over several times and make your own personal notes to help you remember what you have learned. Then you can start on Session 2, Understanding the Essay Question. In the next session,

Session 2 - Understanding the Essay Question, you will learn:

- the 6 different TYPES of questions,
- how to recognize them, and
- how to answer them correctly.

Study Session 2 - Understanding the Essay Question

There are 6 different TYPES of TOEFL/TWE essay questions. You will not know beforehand which type of question you will get on the test, so you must be prepared to write on ALL the types of questions. It is very important that you completely understand the question BEFORE you begin to write as the type of question determines HOW you answer the question.

Below are the six different types of essay questions you may get on the TWE/TOEFL test.

Point of View

Describe with Details

Compare

Agree or Disagree

Explain with Reasons & Examples

Support or Oppose

There will be a Type Drill at the end of this study session.

1. Point of View

This type of question asks you to look at only ONE side of the issue...the side you agree with. DON'T write about both sides. You tell which side you agree with and support your ideas with details and examples." Point of View" questions will have specific words that you can recognize. In this question it will ask for:

- your opinion
- Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.
- What is your opinion?
- Use reasons and specific examples to explain your opinion.
- your point of view
- Which point of view do you agree with?
- your preference
- Which do you prefer?
- Which place would you prefer to live in?

In "Point of View" questions you will see the words "you" and "your". Which do you prefer? What is your opinion? In "Point of View" questions you write from personal experience. Here are some examples of how "Point of View" questions can be worded:

1. Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
2. Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
3. Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
4. Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with a teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons to develop your essay.
5. Some people believe that the Earth is being harmed (damaged) by human activity. Others feel that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
6. In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.
7. Some people spend their entire lives in one place. Others move a number of times throughout their lives, looking for a better job, house, community, or even climate. Which do you prefer: staying in one place or moving in search of another place? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your opinion.
8. Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your opinion.
9. You must select a person to teach others to do a job. Which one of the following is the most important for you to consider in making your selection?
 - the person's education
 - The person's work experience
 - The quality of the person's previous work.Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
10. You have received a gift of money. The money is enough to buy either a piece of jewelry you like or tickets to a concert you want to attend. Which would you buy? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

2. Describe with Details

In answering this type of question, you **MUST** be creative. It asks you to describe something new, something that does not exist, or something intangible like a "quality" or "characteristic". You must describe it in detail **AND** tell why it is necessary. "Describe with Details" questions will have specific words that you can recognize. In this question it will ask a general question like:

- What is a very important skill...
- What are some important characteristics of a co-worker...
- Choose one of these three areas and describe the most important qualities and then it will ask: **WHY?**

In "Describe with Details" questions you will often see the word "why". Explain why you think these qualities are important.... The crucial difference between "Describe with Details" questions and "Explain with Reasons & Examples" questions are these words, "...why YOU think..." or "...in YOUR opinion..." Here are some examples of how "Describe with Details" questions can be worded:

1. We all work or will work in our jobs with many different kinds of people. In your opinion, what are some important characteristics of a co-worker (someone) you work closely with? Use reasons and specific examples to explain why these characteristics are important.
2. People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
3. If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.
4. Many people visit museums when they travel to new places. Why do you think people visit museums? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
5. Neighbors are the people who live near us. In your opinion, what are the qualities of a good neighbor? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

3. Compare

In this type of question, you must write about BOTH sides of this issue and then tell which side you agree with. You may NOT say that you agree with both sides. You MUST make a choice. First, give support, details and examples of both sides of the issue. Then, tell which side you agree with and why. This question will often have the words "Compare and contrast" in it.

- Compare and contrast knowledge..

- What do you think this person would like and dislike...

- Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment...

Here are some examples of how "Compare" questions can be worded:

1. It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?
2. A person you know is planning to move to your town or city. What do you think this person would like and dislike about living in your town or city? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
3. Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the

community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference.

4. Agree or Disagree

In this type of question, you **MUST** agree or disagree. You cannot be unsure or indecisive. After you have said whether you agree or disagree, you must give convincing reasons and examples for your choice.

"Agree or Disagree" questions will have those words in the question:

- Do you agree or disagree with the following?
- Do you agree or disagree?

Here are some examples of how "Agree or Disagree" questions can be worded:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
3. "When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success." Do you agree or disagree with the quotation above? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.
4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should give the same amount of money to their students' sports activities as they give to their university libraries. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
5. It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Sometimes it is better not to tell the truth." Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "People should sometimes do things that they do not enjoy doing." Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.
8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities." Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

5. Explain with Reasons & Examples

In this question, you should use lots of examples. Do **NOT** write in the first

person, "I". Write in more general terms.

"Explain with Reasons & Examples" questions will be worded like this:

- Countries, businesses, and schools are three areas that need good leaders. Choose one of these three areas and describe the most important qualities of a leader in that area. Explain why these qualities are important, using specific examples and details.

- How do movies or television influence people's behavior?

Look at the subject you are to write on. You will notice that this type of question often has "people, government, boss, hometown, neighbor, qualities, characteristics, etc." as the subject that you will write on. These are "general" nouns, not specific or personal.

For example, in the first question below, you would state some reasons why "people" attend university and then give detailed examples of the reasons that confirm your answer. You are writing about people in general and not about yourself. Also the question does not ask for "your" opinion but "why" in general.

Here are some "Explain with Reasons & Examples" questions:

1. What is a very important skill a person should learn in order to be successful in the world today? Choose one skill and use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.
2. Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
3. How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.
4. What change would make your hometown more appealing to people your age? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
5. What are some important qualities of a good supervisor (boss)? Use specific details and examples to explain why these qualities are important.
6. Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
7. In general, people are living longer now. Discuss the causes of this phenomenon. Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
8. Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
9. Resolving problems between individuals or groups is important. What should be considered or kept in mind in resolving problems between individuals or groups? Use specific reasons and examples to support

your answer.

6. Support or Oppose

In this question, first tell whether you support or oppose the plan and then tell WHY. Since this question is somewhat personal, it is OK to use personal pronouns such as: "I, me, my" in your answer.

"Support or Oppose" questions will often have a statement and then have the words, "Support or Oppose in them:

- Do you support or oppose the factory?

- Do you support or oppose the plan?

Here are some examples of how "Support or Oppose" questions can be worded:

1. A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.

2. It has recently been announced that a new restaurant may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose the plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

3. It has recently been announced that a large shopping center may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

4. It has recently been announced that a new movie theater may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

5. It has recently been announced that a new high school may be built in your community. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

We recommend that you make your own notes on the six types of questions.

As an exercise go over the 6 types of questions carefully and then write out everything you can remember about each one.

The Type Drill

Now you will complete a drill to see if you understand the 6 different types of essay questions. [Click here to start the drill.](#)

You can do the drill as often as you need. You should strive to get 100% on the drill. When you are ready go to the next session, Session 3 where you will learn how to organize and develop your essay.

Session 3 - How to Write a Great Essay

What is in Study Session 3

Parts of an Essay

- A. The Introduction
- B. The Body
- C. The Conclusion

Writing a Good Introduction

Essay Question 1

- Introduction
- Main Ideas
- Writing Good Body Paragraphs

Essay Question 2

- Introduction
- Develop the Main Ideas
- Practice Writing Paragraphs
- Writing a Good Concluding Paragraph
- Practice Writing an Essay

Essay Question 3

- Introduction
- Body
- Write the Essay
- Summary

In Study Session 3 you will learn the parts of an essay and how to organize and develop the essay step-by-step.

Parts of an Essay:

In every essay, there should be:

- an introduction,
- a body, and
- a conclusion.

A. The introduction:

The introduction restates the question using different vocabulary and/or sentence structure. The introduction also includes your thesis statement, the most important sentence in your essay. The thesis statement gives your answer and the reasons why you chose that answer.

B. The body:

The body of your essay is also the "heart" of your essay. In the body of the essay you will explain the reasons why you chose that answer in your thesis. These explanations will be the main ideas of the essay. You will develop the essay using details and examples to support those ideas. Each new idea should be a new paragraph. Typically, a TOEFL/TWE essay will have 3 - 4 body paragraphs.

C. The conclusion:

The conclusion will be your final paragraph. It will summarize all the main ideas in your essay and it may also include your opinion.

Writing a Good Introduction:

Let's look at some essay questions to see how to restate the question and how to write your introduction or thesis statement.

TOEFL Essay Question #1:

Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Important: As we learned in Session 2, the first thing to do is to determine what TYPE of question this is so that you will know HOW to answer it. (If you have skipped ahead, please go back to Session 2 now.)

Essay Question #1 is a "Point of View" question as it asks "Which do you prefer?" It is asking for your opinion.

This type of question asks you to look at only ONE side of the issue...the side you agree with. DON'T write about both sides. You tell which side you agree with and support your ideas with details and examples.

Introduction

Now let's look at the introduction for this question.

People have two options when deciding where to eat. They can prepare meals and eat at home or they can go out to stands or restaurants. I prefer to go out to eat because the food is more varied and interesting, it is less work for me and it saves time.

First, we have restated the question:

- People have two options when deciding where to eat. They can prepare meals and eat at home or they can go out to stands or restaurants.

Then, we have answered the question, "Which do you prefer?"

- I prefer to go out to eat.....

Finally, we have given three reasons "WHY" we prefer to go out to eat:

- the food is more varied and interesting,

- it is less work for me, and

- it saves time.

These three reasons "why" you prefer to eat out will be the main ideas for the body of the essay.

Main Ideas for the Body of the Essay

Now we will develop these ideas into the three main idea paragraphs in the body of the essay. We will expand on each reason and give examples to show:

-how the food is more varied and interesting,

- how it is less work, and

- how it saves time.

So now you know:

- what type of question this is (Point of View),

- how to answer (give your personal opinion),

- how to write the thesis (restate the question and give your opinion), and
- what the main ideas are that will make up the body of the essay (the 3 main reasons why).

Essay Question #2:

Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. What type of question is this? This is a "Point of View" question as it asks "Which place would you prefer to live in?" It is asking for YOUR personal opinion.

This type of question asks you to look at only ONE side of the issue...the side you agree with. DON'T write about both sides. You tell which side you agree with and support your ideas with details and examples.

Introduction:

1. Restate the question:

There are many good reasons to live in a big city and an equal number of good reasons to live in a small town.

2. Write your thesis statement by answering the question and giving your reasons. Pick ONE and tell WHY you prefer to live in a small town or a big city.

I, myself, prefer to live in a small town because it is more personal and homey, it is easier to get around in, and it is safer than a big city.

Develop the Main Ideas:

The restatement says that both a city and town have positive aspects.

There are many good reasons to live in a big city and an equal number of good reasons to live in a small town.

You will be writing on these "good reasons" which are "positive" aspects. Do NOT write on any negative aspects. This is very important because you need to answer the question directly and clearly.

The next sentence tells the author's preference...:

I, myself, prefer to live in a small town.....

and gives the reasons for that preference, ...because it is more personal and homey, it is easier to get around in, and it is safer than a big city. (Try to give at least three specific reasons) These reasons will make up the body of the essay. You will then write on each of these three reasons to make up the three body paragraphs of the essay.

1. it is more personal and homey,
2. it is easier to get around in, and
3. it is safer than a big city.

How to write good body paragraphs:

Each paragraph in your essay introduces a new reason. It should include a thesis statement. Let us take the first reason:

One of the main reasons that I prefer to live in a small town is because it is personal and homey.

Here you are giving your opinion, "One of the main reasons that I prefer to live in a small town is..", followed by your reason, "..because it is personal and homey."

This is to be followed by support and examples. Tell HOW it is "personal and homey" to you:

I don't feel so alone here as I would in a large city. My neighbors are friendly and I know most of the people on my street. I feel at home here. For example, when I am mowing the lawn or sitting on the porch, they will say "hello" when they pass by and sometimes they may come out to talk to me. In addition, I feel that I can talk to them easily. One day when I had run out of sugar, I went to my next door neighbor to borrow a cup of sugar. The lady was very nice and asked me in for tea. We had a great chat. She reminded me of my mother and home.

Now practice writing good body paragraphs on the last two reasons:

1. it is easier to get around in, and
2. it is safer than a big city.

Be sure to use LOTS of examples. Within and between paragraphs be sure to use transition words like: on the other hand, however, though, for example, in contrast, likewise, in addition, first, finally, etc.

The Elements of a Good Concluding Paragraph:

The essay should end with a concluding sentence which briefly summarizes the ideas in the paragraph. A good concluding paragraph should include a summary of your main points. It may also include the author's opinion. It should NOT introduce any new ideas. A good concluding paragraph often leaves an impression on the reader. It may make the reader think more deeply about the topic. For this essay the concluding paragraph could read like this:

I prefer to live in a small town for three main reasons; it is more personal and homey, it is easier to get around in, and it is safer than a big city. Many young people who leave home to work for the first time are homesick or feel lost. The transition to their new life would be easier in a small town because it is more personal and homey. They would not feel so lost as it is easier to get around in and they would become familiar with the place faster. Finally, they would be less fearful as it is safer than a big city; and I wonder if that wouldn't make their parents happier too.

Essay Question #3:

Is it better for children to participate in team sports or individual sports? Why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

What type of question is this? This is an "Explain with Reasons & Examples" question. In this question, you should use lots of examples. Do NOT write in the first person, "I". Write in more general terms. For example, in the question below, you would state some specific reasons "why" "it is better for children to participate in team sports or individual sports", and then give detailed examples of the reasons that confirm your answer.

Introduction:

It is better for children to participate in team sports rather than individual sports. In team sports, children learn how to cooperate. They learn good sportsmanship and how to rely on their teammates. These are important lessons that will benefit children throughout their lives.

Main Ideas:

The first sentence clearly states the author's opinion. Note that this is done in "general terms" and not in the first person "I". This is followed by three reasons for the opinion. Finally, the author mentions life lessons. In the essay, the three reasons will make up the three main idea paragraphs in the body of the essay. In addition, the author will mention how each main idea is useful throughout life.

So now you know:

- what type of question this is,
- how to answer this type (in general terms),
- how to write the thesis, and
- what the three main reasons are to write on in the body of the essay.

With this knowledge, write the essay:

- first, make an outline of the essay;
- then develop the body of the essay using the reasons given, and
- finally, write the conclusion.

Practice Writing Sessions

Before you begin:

- Relax and feel confident.

- Remember that you will have 30 minutes to write your essay on the test. Use your time wisely.

On the REAL test you may write your essay on paper or type it on the computer.

- Choose the one you are MOST comfortable with. For this program you will type on the computer.

- You will be able to write an excellent essay using the tips from this program!

Prepare to write your essay by using these FOUR steps:

1. Read and understand the essay question. (2 minutes).

Decide what TYPE of question this is.

2. Organize your ideas on paper by writing a short outline consisting of: (8 minutes).

- A. Introduction

- B. Body of the Essay

- C. Conclusion

3. Write your essay. (15 minutes) Remember to:

- Restate the question in your introduction,

- Answer the question and give at least 3 reasons why you chose that answer,

- Use clear details and LOTS of examples to explain those reasons in the body of your essay,

- Summarize the main ideas in the concluding

4. Reread your essay and make any changes in spelling, verb tense, word choice or sentence structure. (5 minutes).

Writing Your Essay for a Score of 6

Before you begin:

- Relax and feel confident.

- Remember that you will have 30 minutes to write your essay on the test. Use your time wisely.

- On the REAL test you may write your essay on paper or type it on the computer. Choose the one you are MOST comfortable with. For this program you will type on the computer.

- You will be able to write an excellent essay using the tips from this program! Remember what you have learned and follow these steps when writing your essay:

1. Read and understand the essay question.

What TYPE is it? (2 minutes).

2. Organize your ideas on paper;

write a short outline:

introduction,

body and

conclusion. (8 minutes).

3. Write your essay. Remember to:

- restate the question in your introduction

- answer the question based on the type,

- use clear details and LOTS of examples in the body of your essay,

- summarize the main ideas in the concluding paragraph of your essay. (15 minutes).

- Reread your essay and make any changes in spelling, verb tense, word choice or sentence structure. (5 minutes).

A Sample Essay Outline:

Essay Question:

In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.

FIRST, decide what TYPE of question this is.

It is a Point of View question.

This type of question asks you to look at only ONE side of the issue...the side you agree with. DON'T write about both sides. You tell which side you agree with and support your ideas with details and examples.

SECOND, make your outline:

A. Introduction

B. Body of the essay

C. Conclusion

A. Form the introduction:

- restate the question, and
- write the thesis by:
- answering the question, and
- giving at least 3 reasons why

First you restate the question:

Teenagers in many countries have jobs while they finish their education.

Then you answer the question by telling your opinion:

It is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are students..

Finally, you give your three reasons WHY: ...because they can learn about responsibility, they can learn the value of money, and they can learn how to work as a member of a team. These lessons will help them throughout their lives.

These three reasons will form the body of the essay:

- they can learn about responsibility,
- they can learn the value of money,
- they can learn how to work as a member of a team.

B. Body of the Essay

Now you expand on the reasons you gave in the thesis statement:

1) Students can learn responsibility

- a. They have to come to work on time every day
- b. They must serve customers in a friendly manner
- c. They have to maintain the store shelves with inventory

2) Students can learn the value of money

- a. Students will learn that it takes a lot of time and effort to make money
- b. Students will make wiser choices when buying things with their own money

3) Students will learn how to work as a member of a team

- a. Students will learn how to compromise with other employees (helping out when someone is sick, etc.)
- b. Students will learn about the friendship that comes from teamwork (feeling like you can trust others)

C. Conclusion

It is a valuable experience for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they will learn to be responsible adults. They will have an appreciation for money and they will learn about working with others. All of these traits will benefit them throughout their lives.

A Sample Essay (based on the outline above)

It is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they can learn about responsibility; they can learn the value of money and they can learn how to work as a member of a team. When teenagers have jobs while they are students, they can learn how to be responsible. As an employee, you must follow a weekly schedule. This means, you have to come to work on time. If you are scheduled to begin work at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning, you have to be there at 8 a.m. It doesn't matter if you went to a party the night before and do not want to get up. You have to get up. Your boss is relying on you to do your job. As an employee, you also learn that you must serve the customer in a friendly manner. If you are not friendly, the store may lose business and you may lose your job. Finally, an employee is responsible for maintaining the store shelves with inventory. If you work in a department store, you have to keep the shelves filled with merchandise. The products have to be priced and placed on the shelves. If the shelves look empty, customers may get a bad impression of the store and may not continue to shop there. It is good for students to learn responsibility when they are young because it will benefit them as they get older.

Another benefit to teenagers working is that they will learn the value of money. Often students get money from their parents, but they do not realize how hard their parents work for that money. When students work, they begin to appreciate how difficult it can be to make money. They also realize that "money doesn't grow on trees" as some students seem to believe when asking their parents for money. Another reason it is good for students to work is that they will make wiser choices when they use their own money to buy things. For example, if students work 20 hours per week at \$7.00 per hour, they will make \$140 per week. In one month, that is about \$540. Perhaps a student will think twice about spending \$120 for a pair of tennis shoes or \$350 for a stereo system when s/he has had to work very hard for that money. On the other hand, when students do spend money for personal objects, they will appreciate them more than if they had gotten the money from their parents.

Finally, working teenagers learn from being members of a team. As employees, students learn to work with others and help one another. For example, if someone is sick, you may be asked to help out. In addition, other employees will depend on you to do your share of the work. If one person does not do his/her job, other employees may have to do extra work to compensate. Students will learn very quickly that it is not good teamwork to expect others to do your work. Finally, students will develop friendships with other employees because they have learned to count on each other. Working as a member of a team will build strong character in students.

To conclude, it is a valuable experience for teenagers to have jobs while they are students because they will learn to be responsible adults. They will have an appreciation for money and they will learn about working with others. These experiences will help them grow into adulthood and benefit them throughout their lives.

Question TYPE Drill

Read the question, decide what type it is, and then choose the type answer from the 4 options below.

1. Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

2. A person you know is planning to move to your town or city. What do you think this person would like and dislike about living in your town or city? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

3. Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your opinion.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (D) Support or Oppose

4. "When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success." Do you agree or disagree with the quotation above? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

- (A) Compare
- (B) Agree or Disagree
- (C) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (D) Support or Oppose

5. Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

6. It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.

- (A) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (B) Support or Oppose
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

7. Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- (A) Compare
- (B) Agree or Disagree
- (C) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (D) Support or Oppose

8. Resolving problems between individuals or groups is important. What should be considered or kept in mind in resolving problems between individuals or groups? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Compare
- (D) Explain with Reasons & Examples

9. A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Support or Oppose
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

10. Countries, businesses, and schools are three areas that need good leaders. Choose one of these three areas and describe the most important qualities of a leader in that area. Explain why these qualities are important, using specific examples and details.

- (A) Point of View
- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Compare
- (D) Agree or Disagree

11. What change would make your hometown more appealing to people your age? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

- (A) Point of View

- (B) Describe with Details
- (C) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (D) Support or Oppose

12. It has recently been announced that a new restaurant may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose the plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

- (A) Compare
- (B) Agree or Disagree
- (C) Explain with Reasons & Examples
- (D) Support or Oppose

Check your answers below and then click on BACK to return to our site.

Answers:

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. C
8. D
9. B
10. B
11. B
12. D