

TRƯỜNG THIÊN PHÚC

**NEW
EDITION**

PHƯƠNG PHÁP
VIẾT LUẬN
CHO NGƯỜI THI

TOEFL



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN HỒNG ĐỨC

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TUYỂN CHỌN 105 CHỦ ĐỀ VIẾT LUẬN
THƯỜNG GẶP

NHÀ XUẤT BẢN HỒNG ĐỨC

PHƯƠNG PHÁP VIẾT LUẬN CHO NGƯỜI THI TOEFL

Trương Thiện Phúc

Chịu trách nhiệm xuất bản

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7 Lời khuyên khi viết luận TOEFL

I. Hiểu câu hỏi TOEFL:

Có các loại câu hỏi khác nhau về TOEFL. Bạn sẽ không bao giờ biết được bạn sẽ nhận câu hỏi nào, vì vậy bạn phải chuẩn bị để viết tất cả các loại câu hỏi. Điều quan trọng là bạn cần phải hiểu được câu hỏi TRƯỚC KHI bạn bắt đầu viết. Dưới đây là một số loại câu hỏi viết luận khác nhau.

1. Chọn một quan điểm và ủng hộ quan điểm đó. (Câu hỏi minh họa)

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 details to explain your answer.

Loại câu hỏi này yêu cầu bạn chỉ nhìn vào một mặt của vấn đề – mặt mà bạn tán thành. Không viết cả hai mặt của vấn đề. Bạn sẽ nói về mặt mà bạn đồng ý và ủng hộ các ý kiến của bạn bằng các chi tiết và ví dụ.

Bài luận mẫu cho câu hỏi này:

Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes while others believe that the classes should be optional. I believe that students should absolutely be required to attend classes and I will explain my reasons below.

To attain a university degree, it is necessary to prove oneself in many areas. You must countess books and attend lectures, labs and discussions.

If a student only had to read books to attain a degree, I don't think that degree would be worth very much. Of course, we all gain much knowledge from books and articles, but to really have the university experience, we must also gain valuable knowledge from the professors and instructors that help guide us through these readings. The professor chooses the readings for his or her course with the intention of discussing and lecturing about the topics in the books. If you only read the books, you are missing half of the education. We can learn how to interpret ideas from the professors who have more education and experience than we do. A professor can stress for us the important educational points in the assigned readings and share his or her knowledge and experience.

People go to a university to learn. The experience of a lecture given by a good professor is absolutely a necessary part of learning. Professors can be role models, mentors, teachers of life and education. To say that their lectures and lessons should be optional seems incredible to me. People have been learning from each other at universities for ages. One cannot have a complete education without professors guiding him or her through the educational process. Valuable learning comes through discussions with instructors and professors.

It is my opinion that university students should be required to attend classes and discussions. Professors are valuable resources in a person's educational experience and to miss the opportunity of learning one's knowledge directly from the source would be a missed opportunity indeed.

2. Miêu tả. (Câu hỏi minh họa)

If you could invent something NEW, what product would you develop? Use specific details to explain why this invention is needed?

Trong câu trả lời cho loại câu hỏi này, bạn phải sử dụng một số các tính từ để miêu tả một cách hiệu quả. Người đọc có thể thật sự "nhìn thấy" những gì bạn đang miêu tả. Trong câu hỏi cụ thể này,

bạn cũng có thể sáng tạo ra khi họ hỏi bạn về những việc mà thậm chí nó không hề tồn tại.

Bài luận mẫu cho câu hỏi này:

If I could invent something new, I would develop a chemical germ detector with an attached protection kit that could be worn on the body. This invention is needed because there is a real danger of chemical terrorism in the world. We are not medically equipped to handle such a disaster. Such a device might help to save thousands of lives.

We have seen the use of chemical and biological warfare in conflicts between nations such as the U.S. and Iraq in the Gulf War. Also, there was a case of social terrorism on the Tokyo subway system in the 1990's when someone released deadly Sarin gas in a passenger train car. An attack of this nature on a much wider scale could happen at any time. It is not a question of whether such a disaster will happen, but when it will occur. If there was an invention that could detect the immediate presence of a chemical or biological molecule, then a person could protect himself both in military and civilian life.

It has been reported that when a disaster of this kind occurs, the hospitals will not be prepared to handle the situation. If someone released a deadly bacteria in New York City, for example, the hospitals would not have enough antibiotics available to treat the thousands or even millions of people that would be coming in for help. My invention would reduce the need for medicines and medical equipment.

It is also possible that medical personnel would not be well trained to deal with such a catastrophic event. If people were able to help themselves with my invention, then the number of casualties would be greatly reduced.

In conclusion, it is not a question of if, but when a chemical or biological catastrophe will happen. Our hospitals are not equipped with enough medicines and properly trained personnel to handle a disaster

of this type. Therefore, we need to have the option of equipping ourselves with protective devices in order to help ourselves in the event of a catastrophe like the one described above. If I could invent such a device, I would.

3. So sánh hai quan điểm và nói cho họ biết bạn đồng ý quan điểm nào. (câu hỏi minh họa)

Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing. Compare these two views. Which view do you agree with? Why?

Trong loại câu hỏi này, bạn phải viết CẢ mặt của vấn đề này và sau đó nói lên mặt nào bạn đồng ý. Bạn KHÔNG thể nói đồng ý cả hai mặt. Bạn PHẢI lựa chọn. Đầu tiên, nêu lên sự tán thành, các chi tiết và ví dụ cho cả hai mặt của vấn đề. Sau đó, nói về mặt mà bạn đồng ý và vì sao như thế.

4. Đồng ý hay không đồng ý với việc gì đó. (Ví dụ minh họa)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: ONLY people who earn a lot of money are successful. Do you agree or disagree with this definition of success? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Trong loại câu hỏi này, bạn PHẢI đồng ý hay không đồng ý. Bạn không thể nói không chắc hay do dự. Sau khi bạn nói đồng ý hay không đồng ý thì bạn phải đưa ra được các lí do và ví dụ thuyết phục cho lựa chọn của bạn.

5. Giải thích vì sao điều đó là đúng. (Ví dụ minh họa)

*People remember special gifts or presents that they have received.
Why? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.*

Trong câu hỏi này, bạn nên sử dụng nhiều ví dụ. (Đối với câu hỏi này, bạn có thể sử dụng ví dụ về các món quà mà một người có thể nhận và nói cho họ biết vì sao những món quà đó là khó quên). Đừng viết ở dạng ngôi thứ nhất, "Tôi". Hãy viết theo dạng nói chung chung.

6. Cung cấp một ý tưởng hay kế hoạch. (Ví dụ minh họa)

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

Trong câu hỏi này, đầu tiên hãy cho biết bạn ủng hộ hay phản đối kế hoạch đó và sau đó nói lí do vì sao. Vì câu hỏi này khá riêng tư, nên ta có thể sử dụng đại từ nhân xưng như "I, me, my" trong câu trả lời.

II. Các phần của một bài luận:

Trong mỗi bài luận, nên có một lời giới thiệu, thân bài và kết luận.

A. Lời giới thiệu:

Lời giới thiệu trình bày câu hỏi được sử dụng với các từ vựng và/hay cấu trúc câu. Lời giới thiệu cũng bao gồm câu chủ đề... câu quan trọng nhất trong bài luận của bạn.

B. Thân bài:

Phần thân bài của bài luận cũng chính là "quả tim" của bài luận. Nó bao gồm các ý chính, chi tiết, và ví dụ để ủng hộ cho các ý đó. Mỗi ý mới nên là một đoạn văn mới. Điển hình là một bài luận TOEFL sẽ có 3-4 đoạn văn.

C. Kết luận:

Kết luận sẽ là đoạn văn cuối. Nó sẽ tổng kết tất cả các ý chính trong bài luận và nó cũng có thể bao gồm quan điểm của bạn.

III. Cách viết một lời giới thiệu hay:

Hãy quan sát một số câu hỏi luận để xem cách trình bày câu hỏi và cách viết câu chủ đề.

Câu hỏi luận TOEFL 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.

Cách trình bày và câu chủ đề:

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.

Phân tích:

The restatement mentions the two types of options people have for eating and tells which one the author prefers. In addition, it gives three reasons for that preference. These three reasons will make up the three main idea paragraphs in the body of the essay.

Câu hỏi luận TOEFL 2:

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

Cách trình bày và câu chủ đề:

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.

Phân tích:

The first sentence clearly states the author's opinion. 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.

Câu hỏi luận TOEFL 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.

Cách trình bày và câu chủ đề:

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

Phân tích:

The first statement says that both a city and town have positive aspects. The next sentence tells the author's preference and reasons for that preference. These reasons will make up the body of the essay.

IV. Cách viết một thân bài hay:

Mỗi đoạn văn trong bài luận giới thiệu một ý mới. Nó bao gồm một câu chủ điểm được theo sau bởi lời tán thành và các ví dụ. Hãy chắc rằng bạn sử dụng nhiều ví dụ. Bên trong hay giữa đoạn văn sử dụng các từ chuyển tiếp như: *on the other hand, however, though,*

for example, in contrast, likewise, in addition, first, finally. Đoạn văn nên kết thúc bằng một câu kết luận chứa các ý tổng kết trong đoạn văn.

V. Các yếu tố cho một kết luận hay:

Đoạn kết luận nên bao gồm phần tổng kết các điểm chính của bạn. Nó cũng có thể bao gồm cả quan điểm của tác giả. Không nên giới thiệu các ý kiến mới. Một kết luận hay thường để lại ấn tượng cho người đọc. Nó có thể khiến cho người đọc nghĩ sâu hơn về chủ đề này.

VI. Chuẩn bị để viết và cách viết câu trả lời của bạn:

- a. Đọc và hiểu câu hỏi của bài luận. (2 phút).
- b. Sắp xếp các ý của bạn ra giấy bằng cách viết dàn bài ngắn gọn của lời giới thiệu, thân bài và kết luận. (8 phút)
- c. Viết bài luận. Hãy nhớ trình bày câu hỏi trong phần giới thiệu. Sử dụng các chi tiết rõ ràng và nhiều ví dụ trong phần thân bài của bài luận. Sau cùng, tổng kết các ý chính trong phần kết luận của bài luận. (15 phút)
- d. Đọc lại bài luận của bạn và sửa lỗi chính tả, thì, lựa chọn từ vựng và cấu trúc câu. (5 phút)

VII. Dàn bài mẫu cho một bài luận TOEFL:

Câu hỏi TOEFL: *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.*

- I. 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.

Tuyển chọn 105 chủ đề thi Toefl

Topic 1

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.

Model 1:

People study in college or university for many different reasons. I think the most important reason is to gain more knowledge and learn more skills. Of course, there are also many other reasons that people study in college such as to get more friends, and increase one's self-confidence.

These days, most jobs require people who are educated and have good job skills. Therefore, the people who want a good job have to study hard and at least graduate with a high education. Furthermore, as technology advances all over the world, more and more education is required of people.

Some people who study in college or university want to make more friends and increase their interpersonal skills. They enjoy their lives in university or college and tend to socialize a lot. They can meet more people who have the similar interests with themselves. They can go to uni ball after school and make more friends who they trust.

The people who graduate from college seem more confident in our community. These people are more respected by society. Many people want to be respected and to be important by family, friends, their bosses,

and others in their lives. They find that most of them can confidently talk and do their jobs as they are more educated. Therefore, most people want to get the confidence through the university or college study.

In today's society, people need more knowledge and skills to be adapted. The university and college study is a good way to achieve this.

(Essay ID: 316. This is a 5 point essay)

Model 2:

In China, more and more people try their best to attend college or university. What are the reasons that make people long for it?

First of all, in my opinion, the most important reason is to gain competence to live a better life in the future. Competition of our days has become more and more drastic, and even a very simple job or low position will attract hundreds of candidates to apply for it. Only those who have a good education and general knowledge can gain better work. So, we should attend college or university for better competence.

Second, attending college or university can change our life. For example, to myself, I am a student from countryside. I am one of the few people who can attend college or university. Most of those who have not studied in college or university go to work early in a small factory in a small town or on a farm in their hometown. Just because I have taken higher education, I can get better chances to study or work in the capital of our country where a lot of people want to go to. Why? Good education gives me chances to change my life.

The third reason for attending a college is to increase knowledge. Study is a so interesting thing that it makes our life rich and colorful. It expands our eyesight by informing us with lots of new things what we cannot gain from our common life or experience. On the other hand, by attending college or university, you can learn the knowledge or skill necessary for your future work.

People attend college or university for various reasons. Some may attend for new experiences, and others may think about other things. What I have mentioned is just very few of them.

(Essay ID: 404. This is a 5 point essay)

Model 3:

Mr. Taoxingzhi, the most famous educator in China, once said: the biggest misfortune in one's life is that one does not receive a university education. Needless to say, a university degree often helps a person achieve his goal with more ease. However, do we attend university just in pursuit of a degree? Does a university only provide us nothing beneficial besides a paper-made diploma?

As far as I am concerned, we enjoy a university education in the following aspects which attribute us to a university education:

- Firstly, with the knowledge learned in a university, we will have a deep understanding with our society. It is true that genuine knowledge comes from practice, but it can not be denied that genuine knowledge, tells us how to practice. A thorough study in a college or university, of course, enables us to realize how the society works and how to cope with certain problems arising from it in a more efficiently, more skillful way.
- Second, a university education usually makes it possible that we acquire a decent job. Because of an accomplishment of a four-year study, it is not difficult for us to find a good job in most cases. How can we imagine that a graduate majoring in astronomy has to be a vendor in the street! Undoubtedly, he/she should sit in his/her laboratory, making a research on aircraft on a computer. Obviously, a university education assures him/her a decent job.
- Last, but not the least, we can help others much better if putting what we learn in a university into use. A university education corrects our values, enhance our skills, and broad our horizons. With those, we are more capable of giving a hand to those who are in need of help than before.

“Knowledge is power”. When achieving a degree in a university, we can get a better understanding of the society, find a decent job in an easy way, and help others better. All of those are due to the knowledge learned in a university.

(Essay ID: 230)

Model 4:

People attend a college or a university for the following reasons, to acquire knowledge which is necessary for a career, to contribute to the society, and to experience life.

Firstly college education is a necessary step for a person who wants to start a career in science and technology areas. If a student wants to become a scientist, it is important for him to go to a science school; if he wants to be an engineer, an engineering school is the best place for him. There is no other place than a college where a student can get sophisticated education in order to be qualified to become a professional in a specific area.

Secondly, a college education can benefit both the society and the student. By attending college one can get himself prepared for and contribute to the society, which seems to demand advanced knowledge more and more. On the other hand, as knowledge plays a very important role in today's economy, it has also become the capital and asset of the person who owns it: a college education can bring wealth not only to the society, but also benefit the individual who processes it.

In addition, college education is a wonderful experience in one's life. Only in a college one can be taught by the finest scholars and meet with the most intelligent people in the nation. Education can also bring happiness to the student. When a student has conquered a difficult mathematical problem, he savors the joy which learning has brought to him, and feels that he is the happiest man in the world.

Of course, learning in a campus does not mean as much for everybody, but it does mean a lot to me. I was brought up in a knowledge-respecting family. My father is an engineer and my mother is a teacher in a primary school. They are both university graduates. My father, being the most influential person in my life and the son of a poor Chinese farmer, did change the destiny of his own by learning hard to earn a university degree. Therefore he firmly believes that "knowledge can change one's destiny and university is the best place to achieve one's goal". Of course this influenced me. I strongly believe that attending university is the best choice for me. I do not have a bit of hesitation to attend a university.

(Essay ID: 72)

Model 5:

Why do people need to attend colleges or universities? Different people have different answers to this question. I believe that the three most common reasons are to prepare for a career, to have new experiences, and to increase their knowledge of themselves and the world around them.

Career preparation is becoming more and more important to young people. For many, this is the primary reason to go to college. They know that the job market is competitive. At college, they can learn new skill for careers with a lot of opportunities. This means careers, such as information technology, that are expected to need a large workforce in the coming years.

Also, students go to colleges and universities to have new experiences. This often means having the opportunity to meet people different from those in their hometowns. For most students, going to college is the first time they've been away from home by themselves. In addition, this is the first time they've had to make decisions on their own. Making these decisions increases their knowledge of themselves.

Besides looking for self-knowledge, people also attend a university or college to expand their knowledge in subjects they find interesting. For many, this will be their last chance for a long time to learn about something that doesn't relate to their career.

I would recommend that people not be so focused on a career. They should go to college to have new experiences and learn about themselves and the world they live in.

(Essay ID: 73 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com.)

Topic 2

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Model 1:

Who teaches you to walk? Who teaches you to speak? It is your parents who teach you to do these basic things in your life. So don't you think that parents are the best teachers!

Firstly, parents know us very much. Parents give us life, and I think that we will spend large amount of time with them. So they know our merit and demerit in details. Meanwhile, they will help us to get rid of our demerit.

Furthermore, parents possessed many experiences. Since they are older than us, they have experienced many things. Sometimes, they are just like our models. And as the saying goes: "Example is better than precept." So we will unconsciously copy some of our parents' habits and styles of behavior, i.e. we can learn many things from them.

Finally, parents will teach us everything. Since school teachers can just teach us knowledge from the books, our parents can teach us everything. For example, I learn knitting, cooking and make-up from my mother, while learn fixing leaky faucet from my father. They are the persons who love me most, so they will teach me everything without reservations.

Just as the saying goes: "There is no place like home." And I think there is no teacher like our parents. They are the best teachers in our life.

(Essay ID: 276. This is a 5 point essay)

Model 2:

Some people believe parents maybe a very important teacher for children, but will be taken place by teacher after children go to school. However, I believe parents always are the best teacher no matter how many knowledge children have acquired from school, the reasons why I think so go as follow.

First, children always imitate their parents from birth, so the parents' influence on children is great. For example, researchers said that parents' expression can influence the growth of their children' character, if parents always smell and watch their child while he is playing, the child confidence will be greater than other child whose parent always leave him alone at home.

Second, parents are also the best teacher for children in emotional area. For example, if a child feel ^{can't} ^{show} oppression or feel frustrated in school, he always not talks to his teacher, at this time, parents can help him and child are also willing to tell his inner feeling to his parents.

Third, although child gets many knowledge from teacher, basic skills in his whole life are come from his parents. For example, our basic language skill, basic realize skill and even basic sport skill are all acquired from parents. Because of this basic skill parents teach their child, the influence of parents will follow the child's whole life.

^{Notion} ^{at}
All in a word, the effect parents take on the child's education process is greater than any teachers in school, they are the best teacher.

(Essay ID: 261. This is a 5 point essay)

Model 3:

Parents influence greatly their children for a lifetime. I think people are molded by two factors, family and the society that they are in. From birth, humans are influenced by the surrounding people for their characteristics.

Parents take a big role in bringing up children, which affects their lives for a long time.

In early infancy, babies are looking to moms and dads to learn basic manners to be accepted in society. Some of these manners include not running around in restaurants or hitting other kids. As they grow up, they learn more from parents about social etiquette, which makes them more suitable to live in society. Children tend to look to their parents for role models knowingly or unknowingly.

Besides, parents can also affect children's study habits. Children of doctors, lawyers, investment bankers, and other professionals see their mothers and fathers work a lot of time, reading books, and punching keyboards, even at home. They are showing their children how to study by their own behavior.

However, parents can also be a bad example for their kids. It is difficult for children who have abusive parents to lead a normal childhood and is possible that they may become similar to their abusive parents when they grow up. In this sense, the parents' negative role in shaping the children's personality cannot be emphasized more.

In conclusion, parents are the best teachers for their children. They leave big marks on their children's lives and are therefore more influential teachers than any others they may have in their lives.

(Essay ID: 324 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Topic 3

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

Model 1:

Man, through the ages, has undergone many changes, from a period when he hunted for his food to the present era when man is dependent on preprocessed foods. During this period not only has man changed his mode of eating but his whole lifestyle as well. In pursuit of more in this competitive world, man no longer has time as he once had. He is caught in a race against the clock. A person who finishes more in lesser time is considered more efficient. This pressure to do more in less time has affected his eating habits as well and, as a result, man no longer has time to cook food. Early man's only objective was to seek food to sustain him and his family. Nowadays finding food has taken a back seat to other priorities, such as career and education.

Food is no longer of that importance. This is not an encouraging trend. People are too dependent on preprocessed or precooked food, which no longer has the freshness it once had. Such foods lose their mineral and vitamin content and are not as healthy as fresh food. That is why the number of diseases is also rising. People have also shifted to high calorie content food like French fries, pizzas, and ice cream, etc., which is causing obesity, fatigue, etc. As man is becoming busy and too involved in his busy schedule, he has no time even to take care of his own personal needs.

Furthermore, cooking is an art which is dying out. People once enjoyed cooking. It was a means of eliminating stress and tension. People were once able to relax during this time and reflect on their lives.

People may tend to argue that by using precooked and preprocessed food they are efficiently using time and can use this precious time saved for other purposes. But is it really worth it? This is a question whose answer can invite much speculation about whether by saving this little time we are inviting lots of other problems, which could easily be avoided. It is actually making our lives not simpler but more complicated. We have lost many of the simpler things in our lives, like the simple acts of selecting our evening meal, preparing it, and enjoying it with our loved ones, and we are worse off for it.

(Essay ID: 336 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 2:

Nowadays, wherever we turn our gaze, we can see different types of food that are easier to prepare. For instance, we can buy frozen foods in a supermarket and just prepare it in a couple of minutes, whereas before it could have taken us maybe hours to prepare this kind of meals. I would accept that this so-called improvement has changed our lives, but I believe that there are some drawbacks as well.

It is true that these kinds of food do not involve hard work to prepare, but food that is easy to prepare generally has some artificial ingredients mixed in it that makes it "easy-to-cook". If we take time to read the ingredients, we would definitely come across words like preservatives or artificial flavorings. It was just a couple of days ago that I came across a newspaper article which stated that someone was poisoned because he ate this type of food. He was hospitalized for almost a month.

Not having to cook has also taken the fun out of cooking. Cooking is an art, but in today's world, this is no more true. People are so busy with their work that they just rely on this simple food. The invention and production of this food have made people lazy not only for cooking but also for a well family get-together. It was not like former times when families

would sit together and eat freshly baked food. Instead, they are getting these artificial things with minimal nutrients in them.

Cooking in the yester-years was much better than today's. People would spend more time in the kitchen, preparing the food in the way that they liked it. This brought families closer together and also contributed to the high quality and nutrition of the food. Granted, people are busier nowadays and do not have as much time as they did in the past, but I believe that people have forgotten the importance of healthy, fresh food and of the time a family spends together preparing the food. So, I would say that having food that is easy to prepare has had many disadvantages.

(Essay ID: 325 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 3:

It can not be doubted that our eating style has encountered a revolutionary change in the last few decades. It is the change in the type of food that has had the greatest influence. Not only have the recipes of certain food types have been altered, but also absolutely new ones have been created. Examples include yet are not restricted to beef hamburgers, potato chips, and cola drinks. All of these changes contribute to making food preparation as fast and easy as possible. It cannot be neglected that modern cooking facilities play a dramatic role in this trend.

Some people regard this trend as a spoiler of our lives. Their argument focuses on two main points. First, many newly emerged types of food have not the essence of a "complete meal" as defined by nutritionists. To add to the problem, these food types are often served alone. In fact, there are many medical reports warning people from depending upon such fast meals in their food. Other reports indicate a high potential of malnutrition among those who are "addicted" to the common duet of burgers and cola.

Second, the advantage of gathering family members around a meal at home is lost. Fast prepared food types are usually eaten outside home. With the absence of regular family meetings, relationships are likely to be weaker.

Others think that fast prepared food types do improve our style of life. This opinion comes especially from busy people, working wives, and younger people. They believe that we have many things in life more important than eating. Time spent on food preparation is considered wasted by them. Wives will have more time to take care of their families' souls not just stomachs. Family relationships will get stronger. Business men and women will have more time to concentrate on their business without worrying about food arrangements. In general, people will have a greater opportunity to take care of their minds and hearts. Reports estimate the time spent on food arrangements as a large percentage of our lives.

I agree with that food preparation should take its necessary time and care. Otherwise, the time saved in food preparation can lead to longer times of headache or even of staying in hospitals suffering from malnutrition.

(Essay ID: 328 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 4:

The twentieth century has brought with it many advances. With those advances, human lives have changed dramatically. In some ways life is worse, but mostly it is better. Changes in food preparation methods, for example, have improved our lives greatly.

The convenience of preparing food today is amazing. Even stoves have gotten too slow for us. Microwave cooking is much easier. We can press a few buttons and a meal is completely cooked in just a short time.

People used to spend hours preparing an oven-cooked meal, and now they can use that time for other, better things. Plus, there are all kinds of portable, prepackaged foods we can buy. Heat them in the office microwave, and lunch at work is quick and easy.

Food preparation today allows for more variety. With refrigerators and freezers; we can preserve a lot of different foods in our homes. Since technology makes cooking so much faster, people are willing to make several dishes for even a small meal. Parents are more likely to let children be picky, now that they can easily heat them up some prepackaged macaroni and cheese on the side. Needless to say, adults living in the same house may have very different eating habits as well. If they don't want to cook a lot of different dishes, it's common now to eat out at restaurants several times a week.

Healthful eating is also easier than ever now. When people cook, they can use new fat substitutes and cooking sprays to cut fat and calories. This reduces the risk of heart disease and high cholesterol. Additionally, we can buy fruits and vegetables fresh, frozen or canned. They're easy to prepare, so many of us eat more of those nutritious items daily. A hundred years ago, you couldn't imagine the process of taking some frozen fruit and ice from the freezer, adding some low-fat yogurt from a plastic cup and some juice from a can in the refrigerator, and whipping up a low-fat smoothie in the blender!

Our lifestyle is fast, but people still like good food. What new food preparation technology has given us are more choices. Today, we can prepare food that is more convenient, healthier, and of greater variety than ever before in history.

(Essay ID: 75)

Topic 4

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?

Model 1:

There are two main channels for people to learn knowledge --from books and from experience. Generally, knowledge gained from books is theoretical, that gained from experience is practical. It is difficult to answer which is more important to we people. It depends on the phases and events of our learning. Knowledge learned from books is instructive, which perhaps cannot learn directly from experience. We often hear thunders and see lightning in the sky, and we can easily find that lightning will be seen sooner than sound will be heard. According to our experience alone, we cannot tell why it had happened. But when we learn some physics in textbooks, we will find the answer clearly that because light travels faster than sound does, it takes less time for light to travel the same distance than for sound. Therefore, book knowledge can inform us some useful theories that can give us general ideas and help us understand the real phenomenon better.

In turn, practice knowledge check out the theories gained from books. There is an old Chinese saying that practice is the only criterion of inspecting the truth. So not all knowledge from books is credible, even false. When Aristotle wrote in his transcripts that the earth is the center of our planets, no one doubts this for centuries. However, when Galileo read about it, he did not suspect it at first, but when he made some observation and research, he found it is not the truth. Then comes the new theory—Sun center theory.

In our daily life, we can learn much information from practice. To learn swimming, it is useless to be absorbed in reading skills written in books. Only when you learn it in a swimming pool, can you make it. There are still a lot of things you must learn from your own experience, such as driving a car, riding a bicycle, operating a machine. And the most important is that it is often easier learn knowledge from practice than from books. As far as the average people are concerned, it is natural to learn from experience. Primitive people learned skills hand by hand which is the way they were handed down from one generation to another.

Modern people also learn things in practice. In workshops, leading workers teach apprentices carefully; in activity clubs, teachers teach youngsters to be familiar with their hobbies. It is obvious that all of things considered knowledge gained from practice is more close and direct than from the books.

Therefore, two kinds of knowledge have importance. For research people, knowledge from books is more important, while for our average people, knowledge from practice is more important. As students, we must first learn knowledge from books well, and at the same time we must have the good sense to tell from what is right and what is wrong.

(Essay ID: 76 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Topic 5

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.

Model 1:

I have been living in a peace and quiet town for about 10 years. All people around here are so kind, and the landscape is so beautiful that I love this town very much. Recently I heard news that a company will set up a new factory near my community. I was shocked and I hold a negative opinion about this decision.

The main reason why I oppose this plan is that establishing a new factory will cause air pollution. As we know, a factory will give off a lot of waste air which is harmful to people's health. Even though the factory will take measurements to purify the air, it can not make the air as clean as before. It is no doubt that people's health will be affected by the air emitted from the factory. Another reason is that a factory makes too much noise. My community is always a quiet place and this is just what I like the most. A factory will cause the town to become too noisy. For example, every morning, we can be awake from our dreams by the noise of buses which take workers to the factory. The noise of engines will also influent our temper, and may cause us susceptible to anger, and easily lose temper.

Furthermore, a strong reason to oppose this idea is that building a factory will destroy the landscape of this town. Most people living in this town make their living by cultivating and harvesting crops. The factory is inappropriate with the landscape of the town and it will occupy the land that is used to farming.

Of course, building a factory also has advantages to some extent. For example, it will bring more working opportunity for local people, and also it will help developing the local economics. But comparing with the disadvantages, I strongly oppose the idea to build a factory near my community.

(Essay ID: 79 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 2:

I support the idea that a factory to be built near our community. I list my reasons as follows.

Firstly, a new factory near our community helps to improve living standard of people in our community. The factory will employ a lot of workers. As a consequence, the unemployment rate will drop significantly. Many people in our community will find a job in the factory. As people's income increases, they will be able to spend more money on their food, clothing and leisure time, and the quality of life will be increased.

Secondly, a new factory will bring prosperity to our community. The tax collected from a factory is an important source of revenue for our town. As people have higher income, income tax collected will also be increased. The town will be able to spend more money on infrastructures and other development. Moreover, in order to accommodate more workers, more homes and stores will be needed. This will boost real estate development in our community.

Some people say that a factory would bring smog and pollution, and destroy the quality of the air and water in town. This is not the truth. Modern technologies have made today's factories technology intensive and brought pollutions to the minimum. There are also worries that the social structure of this community will be changed and the traditional

life will be affected. We should understand that society needs to evolve and we cannot always stay in the old time.

Of course, there will be some drawbacks of building a new factory here. But in my opinion, the benefits outweigh the dangers. I strongly support to build a factory here, and hope that others feel the same way.

(Essay ID: 78)

Model 3:

If a large factory is going to be built near your community, is it good or bad? It's a quite difficult question to answer. Because there are many aspects to take into your consideration, the advantages and the disadvantages. Let's talk about that.

First, a large factory, especially a large chemical factory is quite harmful to our environment when it is built near our community. It will affect our daily life a lot. All the chemical factories will produce a lot of waste and most of the wastes are harmful to the environment, including poisonous gas and liquid. Some of them can not be entirely broken down. If they are released into the air or the river, it will affect our health. And also the factory may produce a lot of noise. The environment we want to live in is a quiet and peaceful one, so the noise will be quite boring. And yes, noise also affects our health.

Still one thing, a factory can be very dangerous. Because a fire or a explosion may break out in the factory. If it's very near our home, it's quite dangerous.

But in other hand, a factory may be a good news to us. It can provide more jobs for us, especially for the young people in our community. Since the factory is near, it's so convenient to go to work... and the factory will get more chances to our area. It will help to develop our area. So if the factory can bring us a lot of chances, we will agree to build one. But the most important things are:

1. Build the factory in a safe distance from our community, not too near.
2. Make sure that the factory can deal with the waste properly. Do not release the poisonous gas into the air, and not release the waste water into the river nearby.
3. Make sure the security guard in the factory works very well.

(Essay ID: 466)



Topic 6

If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Model 1:

Everything in the universe is in constant change. And everything needs continual improvement if the ever changing and increasing demands of humankind are to be met. If I am ever given the chance to change one important thing about my home town, it would be Internet service. Needless to say that nothing generally revolutionized the way we live as Internet in the past decade. Thus, an improvement in this vital service would mean an even more, unheard betterment to the people in my home town.

It is said that information is power. True saying indeed! I can envision how everything in my home town could improve dramatically if the Internet service in it were made free, fast and staying out there like electricity, telephone or water all the time. One thing, a fast free and reliable internet service could improve in my home town is the way people work. If there is this said service people in my home town must not necessarily commute to a far place to do their job. This in turn would mean less traffic jams, spacious work place, more time for family and recreation and so on.

The way people learn would be another important thing that a fast, free and reliable Internet service could better in my home town. People will have the chance to go through tremendous and different information resources in a very small amount of time. They apparently will also take less time to share it. This assures a more fulfilled life for my home town people.

Since its advent, Internet touched every part of our life. It in a dazzling way improved the way we do business, learn and communicate. A change in Internet service implies good way of living for every one in my home town.

(Essay ID: 331 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 2:

If I could change one important thing about my home town, it would be air pollution problem, and I will give the following reasons to explain why I want to solve the problem.

The first and most important reason is that I hope that my home town can become a beautiful city. As an old industrial city, my home town has made a great deal of contribution for the country's economic development. At a result, the natural environment of the city has been badly damaged. The forest has disappeared; the mountains have become bald, and the most awful thing is that the air quality becomes more and worse. People seldom see the blue sky during most time of year.

Another reason why I want to change my hometown's air pollution situation is that the city's development needs clean and tidy environment to attract investors. Nowadays people have come to know that the city's environment, which is so called "software facility of the city", plays an important role in the city's future. For example, due to the fact that the environment of the city is very poor, many local students who pursue their study out of the city would rather find themselves a job in other cities than coming back to their home town after they graduated.

In addition, nowadays people have paid more and more attention to their health. If air pollution problem cannot be solved as quickly as possible, people's requirement for a healthy body will never be realized.

In my mind, changing air pollution will apparently be my first choice if I can change one important thing about my home town. Fortunately people in my home town are gradually aware of the serious problem.

(Essay ID: 80)

Model 3:

If I could change one thing about my hometown, I would like to build up some useful and advanced facilities for their use. A modern library, an advanced broad band system and an integrated gym may bring a lot of changes to people living in my home town and keep them up with the latest information and technology.

In my opinion, a modern library in my hometown can provide a good environment for the local people to study and upgrade themselves. There are a lot of newspaper, magazines and reference books for their use. They can know what happened around the world and keep up with the fast-pace of this developing world. From lots of cultural books, they also can own a good habit of reading and learn to get knowledge from books. "Knowledge is strength". Knowledge can give us guidance to overcome problems we meet in the daily life.

To popularize the broad band at home also is a quick access to Internet and movie channel, which can give people much more chances to choose their entertainment. Because of the Internet, our lives have been changed a lot no matter whether we accept or not. We can read news, buy items from e-commerce companies, send a free e-card to our friends, mail our beautiful photos to anyone we like or watch the movies online. Anyway, Internet brings us obvious changes. Additionally, broad band also can provide movie channel to users. Can you imagine that you can watch the movies you like just by clicking one button? It provides different types of movie for you to choose. People have more choice to enjoy the life and advanced technology at home.

Besides important information we need to know and advanced technology we use, we also need to do exercise to keep our healthy life. This is the reason why I want to set up an integrated gym in my home town. Through doing many various exercises, such as, swimming, jogging, playing badminton or tennis, people can enhance their ability to resist the virus and enjoy the life happily. Furthermore, people who often do exercise have positive attitudes towards life although when facing difficulties. This is really what I hope to see.

In summary, I want my home town to be a city equipped with a modern library, an advanced broad band system and filled with people liking exercise, loving life and possessing positive attitudes towards life. Thus, I want to build up above-mentioned facilities first.

(Essay ID: 270)



Topic 7

How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Model 1:

Do movies and television affect our behavior? I believe that movies and television do influence our behavior, both for the better and for the worse.

Movies and television influence our behavior because they make us less active. Looking at films is a passive activity. If we watch too much, we become unhealthy, both mentally and physically. We stop using our own imagination when we see things acted out for us. Mental laziness becomes physical laziness; we'd rather watch sports on TV than play sports ourselves. We'd rather visit with the characters on "Seinfeld" or "Friends" than go chat with our own neighbors. Imaginary people have exciting lives. Is it any wonder that some people would rather live a fantasy life than their own? Movies and television also can make people more violent. The more we see violent acts on television, the less sensitive we become to them: Eventually violence doesn't seem wrong. We may even commit violent acts ourselves. This is especially true because we don't always realize that violence has consequences. Actors can be killed and come back for another movie. Sometimes we confuse that with reality. We forget that killing someone is permanent.

Of course, watching movies and television can also be good for us. It can give us a broader window on the world. For example, seeing movies can expose us to people of different races and cultures. We can then overcome some prejudices more easily. Recently there have been more handicapped people in films, and this also helps reduce prejudice.

The best influence on our behavior is that movies and television reduce stress. Watching films, we can escape our own problems for a little while. Also, sometime movies show positive ways to resolve problems we all face. While TV and movies shouldn't be a way to hide from life, sometimes they can help us cope.

It is true that movies and television can influence our behavior negatively. However, I also believe that they influence our behavior in positive ways. How they affect you depends on how much you watch, what you watch, and how you respond to what you watch.

(Essay ID: 81)

Model 2:

Hesitating I enter my house, the light outside is dimming and the shadows make everything appear unfamiliar. I know that my husband has not returned from work yet, simply because his car is not in the garage. I am alone. I carefully check all the rooms, almost expecting something to happen suddenly. I hold my bag in my hand as if it were a weapon. After the whole house has been declared "clear," I start to breathe normally again and a smile appears on my face as I realize, once again, how a simple movie seen at the cinema a week earlier can modify my actions.

Sometimes I wonder if I should watch TV, with all its shows that make me wonder whether I exercise enough, whether I am slim enough, or whether I treat my pets with the care they deserve: am I really concerned about their mental health? Not to mention the hundreds of commercials that try to make me believe I need water purifier to remain alive since the water I am currently drinking is heavily polluted! And countless are the times when I have heard people talking by quotations learned from movies. We need to watch shows and films to know what to say, how to be, how to act. We are so addicted to all this that it almost seems like we cannot think on our own.

I cannot help thinking about what happened to me some days ago, an example that clearly shows what kind of power TV has over people. My husband and I were in a restaurant when I heard my young neighbor pronouncing violent words in a low angry voice. Surprised, I turned to better understand the situation and I saw that he was holding a fake military device and was acting as if he were filming a war movie. I am sure that if I had been a little more updated about this type of movie, I would have recognized what he was saying as a quotation. Now, I wonder if he uses such a language also with his friends and with his parents, if he is aggressive, and if so, whether his attitude has really nothing to do with what he watches on TV.

That same evening on the way home I saw two cars stopped one next to the other at a traffic light and as soon as the light turned green they started racing, in the middle of town. In this case not even a major knowledge of movies and TV programs would have helped me: there are just too many of them on the market showing the exact same thing: people racing with cars.

I am sure that everybody, if asked, could easily list many other examples of how TV and movies can modify our behavior and therefore our life but, I wonder, if we will always be able to draw the line between a TV show and real life, between what they make us think we want and what instead we really need and are and believe.

(Essay ID: 332 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Topic 8

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.

Model 1:

Television is undoubtedly one of the most powerful means of communication in the history of humankind, rivaled only by such other forms of communication as the Internet, the telephone, movies, and, of course, simple, low-tech speech. Television, with its wide availability and rich media with image and sound, is difficult to ignore and even seductive in its appeal. Television is as much a part of our lives as are our meals, work, or school; studies consistently show that the average American child spends almost as much time watching television as she does in school. Furthermore, because television is so rich in its media, it often requires our full attention or is more attraction to us than are our daily lives. Naturally, the more time one spends watching television, the less time she has with her family and friends. Thus, we can clearly see why some have claimed that television has been harmful for communication among family and friends. However, I believe that, while television has been somewhat harmful in its effects, it has hardly "destroyed" communication among family and friends for most people, although for some, this may be true.

Most people much prefer spending time with their families and friends to spending time watching television. Television is of course an important part of many people's lives, but most people would gladly choose family and friends over television were they given the choice. Furthermore, most educated people are aware of the deleterious effects of too much television and either avoid excessive time watching television, or actually

do not enjoy it. I, for example, after a long day at work, would much rather spend time talking with my wife and playing with my children than I would watching some unrealistic portrayal of life on television. For me and my family, our time together is precious and beautiful, and could never be replaced or hurt by television.

Furthermore, the effect of television is simply not so great that it could be said to have "destroyed" communication among family and friends. Granting that communication among family and friends in industrialized countries has decreased in recent years, it might be tempting to blame this problem on television since its rise roughly coincided with the decrease in time we spend with our families. However, I believe this situation is more likely due to increased pressures relating from work, school, and the economy. In my case, for example, I find that my pressures from work are so great that I must often sacrifice time at home so that I can meet the challenges of running my own business. Many of my friends are in similar situations my best friend, for example, has just finished law school, which took about sixty hours a week of his time. In a word, people nowadays have very little time for anything, but television is not the cause it is increased desire to succeed.

In some situations, however, television has surely contributed to a decrease in communication among family members. In my childhood in the countryside, I often saw parents and children watching television for hours on end, rarely speaking with one another. It seemed for them that television was a way to escape from their sad, miserable existence. However, even in this case, I would say that television merely contributed to the bad situation, but did not cause it; were television not existent, surely these people would have found other escapes, alcohol or gambling, for example. In other words, people always find a way to do what they want to do.

In short, I do not believe that television has destroyed or even harmed interpersonal communication among most people. Most people realize that television is merely a temporary diversion and do not use it to replace

interpersonal communication. I believe that the damage attributed to television is greatly exaggerated and that such damage is most likely attributable to other more powerful social factors.

(Essay ID: 339 . Sample essay provided by Erin Billy of www.TestMagic.com)

Model 2:

When asked about what has been brought by television, different people have different answers. There are some people who don't like TV saying that television has destroyed communications among friends and family. However other people take a negative attitude on this issue. In my opinion, I disagree with the above statement. The reasons are given below.

Television is only one instrument for people to relax. There is many ways of amusement for people to select after the working time nowadays. You can select to meet your friends, to accompany your parents or to take part in some sports activities. Watching TV at home is simply one way to live. It is too narrowly to regard TV as one main reason to damage relationship among friends and family just because some people has spent a lot of time on it.

Another reason that I disagree with the above statement is that TV can provide some additional topics for communication among friends and family. Talking about the news, the soap drama or soccer game watching on the TV last night is also good communication ways to increase your affections with your friends and your family. Also sometimes, skipping one TV program could probably make you lose voices among your friends.

Last but not least, watching TV is one good medicine to cure the loneliness when your friends and parents can not accompany with you. I would not forget the warm which was brought by TV when along outside the hometown.

I can't deny that some people have ignored friends and family when they are addicted into watching TV. However, everything has its two sides. All the factors mentioned above determined me to draw the conclusion that it is not reasonable to say television has destroyed communications among friends and family.

(Essay ID: 234. This is a 5 point essay)

Model 3:

Some people believe that television has destroyed communication among friends and family. I think this is an exaggeration. In my opinion, whether or not television hurts communication depends on what type of program is being viewed. More importantly, it depends on the type of viewer.

There are empty programs and educational programs. Empty programs do not challenge people. They have just enough story-line to keep them from switching channels. There are also passive and active viewers. A passive viewer will just watch television without thinking about what he or she is seeing. The combination of an empty program and a passive viewer makes communication unlikely. Passive viewers just continue to watch, actually enjoying the fact that they don't have to think. They won't break away to talk about programming with friends and family. Even with better programming, passive viewers still won't think or communicate much. They'll probably even prefer the empty programs because the better programming is too much work.

On the other hand, active viewers watching educational programming always want to share what they see with friends and family. "Educational" doesn't necessarily mean documentaries on PBS. They could be dramas with realistic relationships or action shows with clever plotlines. When active viewers watch programs, they have ideas and talk about them with others. Good programming inspires them to change their thinking and

their lives. Unlike passive viewers, they don't want to watch more and more without thinking.

In short, television may destroy communication among passive viewers. Those viewers probably don't want to communicate with friends and family, much anyway. For active viewers who already enjoy communicating, television is actually helpful!

(Essay ID: 82)