

SAMPLE COMPOSITIONS

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1 Communication (Task 6, page 15)

We have non-verbal ways of communicating with people, including our appearance and our facial expressions. These help us learn things about people without having a conversation. However, just watching people does not allow us to get to know them well.

To begin with, the first thing we notice about people is their appearance. We get a first impression of them from their hairstyle and clothes, which tells us which fashions they like and what age they are.

In addition, people's facial expressions reveal their feelings. For example, a genuine smile expresses happiness and a frown expresses worry. Moreover, body language reveals something about people's personality. A shy person might not make eye contact with others, whereas an outgoing person shakes hands or hugs others.

However, we might make incorrect judgments about these things. For instance, people who dislike body decoration might form a bad impression of someone who has tattoos or wears a ring through their nose. In addition, it's also hard to interpret facial expressions, especially if a person comes from a different culture than we do.

To sum up, although it is true that we can find something out about people from their appearance and facial expressions, I believe it is impossible to get to know them well without actually spending time with them.

2 The Way We Are (Task 6, page 31)

Dear Ms. Lane,

I am writing in response to your Question of the Week about where teens should live when they get into a local college. I know from experience that both options have good and bad aspects.

The advantage to living at home is that it's cheaper for you and your parents. Additionally, you'll have meals provided and all the comforts of home so you can spend more time studying. On the downside, though, you have to live by your parents' rules and you won't be free to come and go as you like.

Getting your own apartment also has pros and cons. On one hand, you can make your own rules and have friends over whenever you like. On the other, there's the stress of paying for your living expenses, and you have to shop, cook, and do housework, all while keeping up with schoolwork. Also, you might feel lonely – especially, if you don't have roommates.

I got an apartment, but I moved back home so I could focus on school. In the end, it's up to each person to know if they can handle the added expense and responsibility.

Sincerely yours,

[Name]



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3 The World Around Us (Task 5, page 49)

The air quality in many cities around the world is a major problem, and my city is one of the worst. I believe the government could do more to improve the situation.

One thing lawmakers could do is to enforce the existing laws. For example, you can still see thick fumes coming from many old cars that travel into the city. These cars should have been taken off the road years ago, but the government didn't enforce the law. Police should make sure that the owners of these old cars receive maximum fines for violating this law.

Another thing lawmakers could do is encourage people not to drive into the center by promoting car pooling and putting a park-and-ride scheme into effect. The effect of this would be to reduce exhaust fumes by keeping hundreds of cars out of the center.

In short, solutions exist, but our government needs to make them happen. I'd encourage people to vote for politicians who will fight for these changes. Everyone's health is at risk, and it is important that we fix the problem now before it is too late.

4 Lessons for Life (Task 7, page 65)

Many high school graduates choose to train while they work rather than go to college and continue their academic education. I believe this is ideal for young people who want to learn a skill while earning money.

In the first place, young people need good qualifications to find a job. However, many young people prefer learning in a hands-on way rather than in a theoretical way. This means that an apprenticeship is more appropriate for them. For example, young people who want to become car mechanics might find that they can learn more by actually repairing a car engine rather than by reading a book about how to do it.

In addition, on-the-job training programs allow young people to make a living as soon as they finish high school. This allows them to become economically independent. They can support themselves and they can also begin to save for the future.

Finally, combining work with study makes young adults more responsible by teaching them how to organize their time and budget their finances.

To sum up, I believe on-the-job training programs are an excellent way for high school graduates to develop job-related skills while earning money at the same time. College isn't for everyone, and on-the-job training is an exciting alternative.



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5 Money, Money, Money! (Task 7, page 83)

My Ideal Home

Wouldn't it be wonderful to spend a fortune on your ideal home? If I had lots of money to spend, my ideal home would be traditional, but practical.

For a start, I love the countryside, so I would live in an old cottage. It would have stone walls, a wooden door, and two flower baskets hanging by the entrance. It would look like a traditional cottage, but inside I'd install modern kitchen appliances and central heating because I like a house to be comfortable and well-equipped.

I enjoy gardening, so my home would have flower beds planted with rose bushes and other flowers. I'd also grow vegetables for my family and friends. Inside, the cottage would have comfortable furniture and simple white curtains. The bedrooms would have traditional wooden beds and drawers, and the bed covers would have floral patterns. The one modern place would be my study with my computer and Wi-Fi connection so I could work from home.

My ideal home would hold a very special place in my heart. After all, home is where the heart is, isn't it?

6 The World of Work (Task 7, page 99)

Dear Paul,

I'm writing regarding the article I've just read in The City Post about your decision to quit your job and start farming instead. Some people disagree, but I admire you for making such a courageous choice.

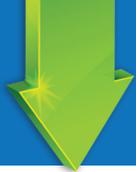
On one hand, I can understand why people criticize you for changing your career path. As a banker, you were successful, respected, and well-paid and they think you threw this away for a job that requires hard work and long hours with little financial reward.

On the other hand, it must have been very frustrating for you when you realized that you were doing something that no longer satisfied you. I agree that job satisfaction is the most important thing because without it you can't be happy. I think running your own farm will be fulfilling and will give you a new lease on life. It might be difficult to live on less money, but I believe you will make a go of it.

I congratulate you on following your dream. I sincerely hope that your farm is a success and that you have a very happy life.

Best wishes,

(Name)



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7 Law and Order (Task 7, page 117)

Dear members of the City Council:

I'm writing to suggest things you can do to make Johnson Park safer before you reopen it.

The first measure I would suggest is to install security cameras around the park. This would help deter crime because drug dealers and other criminals would fear being identified.

Another step would be to improve lighting throughout the park. Currently, the children's playground is the only well-lit area. If lighting were installed on all paths, criminals could not hide in the shadows waiting to attack.

Finally, having the police make more frequent patrols would also make the park safer. When criminals know there are police on the scene, they are less likely to get up to no good.

Given that the city is short on funds, better lighting and more frequent police patrols are probably the best and cheapest options. Police patrolling a well-lit park are more reassuring than expensive cameras that could break or be damaged.

I hope the Council will give my ideas serious consideration. Everyone loves Johnson Park, and we all want to see a safer park open as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(Name)

8 Looking after Yourself (Task 7, page 133)

It is important for teenagers to limit their use of technology and to exercise regularly and eat healthy, nutritious food. However, I think only a few modern teenagers are able to do these things.

Firstly, many teenagers these days have a lot of schoolwork. Sitting for hours at a desk, both at school and at home, is bad for their health. After they finish their homework, they often turn on their computers so they are still sitting down. Spending time like this is bad for their health because they get no regular exercise.

In addition, many teenagers prefer junk food and snacks to fruit and vegetables. Eating food that lacks vitamins and other nutrients can weaken the immune system and lead to illness because the body cannot fight infection.

Moreover, some teenagers suffer from stress and anxiety because of the pressure of getting into a good college. This can have a negative effect on their health, even if they exercise and eat properly.

To sum up, modern teenagers need to adopt healthier exercise routines and more nutritious diets lifestyles. However, they need support from family and friends because it is difficult for them to do this on their own.



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9 Friends that Last (Task 6, page 151)

What qualities make for lasting friendships? I used to think that the most important thing was to be able to have fun hanging out with someone. However, I've been hurt by people I liked to hang out with and the relationships didn't last, so it's clear that's not enough.

People who share our interests are easy to have fun with. We love listening to music, going shopping, or playing video games with them. But what happens when things get difficult? People you thought were friends often disappoint you. They betray your secrets or spread gossip about you, or they're never there for you when you need advice. They might also be jealous when good things happen to you.

But lasting friends are there for each other when things get tough. You can trust each other to be caring and supportive. You can give each other advice, and you can rely on each other to be honest and helpful and keep one another's secrets.

All in all, lasting friends are ones you can depend on through bad times as well as good. As the saying goes, "A friend in need is a friend indeed!"

10 Travel and Transportation (Task 5, page 167)

Many people drive into the city center for business or shopping. Consequently, there is too much traffic and pollution in urban centers. I believe that the downtown area would be a better place if people were banned from driving their cars into town during the day.

To start with, I think that privately operated cars should be banned from the city center between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If the council built parking lots on the outer edges of the city, people could park their cars and then come into the center by public bus or train. This would decrease pollution from exhaust fumes as well as reduce the noise of traffic.

Some people oppose this idea because they say it would discourage people from coming into the center and as a result damage local businesses. They are concerned that people would not be able to drive to work or make deliveries. However, if the hours I suggest were used, then people would still be able to drive to the office in the morning and leave after 4:30 without a problem. Shoppers could park their cars in the special parking lots and then take public transportation into the center. Moreover, delivery vans would not be affected as they are commercial vehicles.

To sum up, it is possible to improve our unhealthy urban centers by limiting the hours cars can come into the city center and creating special parking areas from which people could take public transportation to and from the center.