

# TOEFL iBT Writing Topics-GREEN FILE

گردآورنده: حامد اعلائی

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## فایل سبز: مجموعه سوالات پیشنهادی برای تمرین مهارت Writing

تعدادی از نمونه سوالات تسک دو مهارت Writing آزمون TOEFL در این مجموعه گردآوری شده است.

در این مجموعه نمونه سوالات اخیر آزمون TOEFL و سوالات سایت ETS برای تسک Writing for an Academic Discussion و همچنین نمونه سوالات سایت [toeflresources.com](http://toeflresources.com) برای تمرین ایده پردازی داوطلبان ارائه شده است.

برای تمرین بیشتر توصیه می کنیم تعدادی از سوالات Independent Task را نیز ایده پردازی نمایید. با اینکه صورت سوالات عوض شده، اما با مطالعه سوالات فرمت جدید متوجه می شویم، بسیاری از ایده های سوالات Independent Task در این تسک نیز تکرار شده است.

موضوعات قسمت Independent Task این مجموعه (از صفحه 67 تا صفحه آخر) بر اساس تجربیات داوطلبان آزمون و سوالات پیش بینی از سال 2012 تا پایان فرمت قبلی آزمون (قبل از 26 جولای 2023) آماده شده است.

این مجموعه فقط شامل نمونه سوالات می باشد.

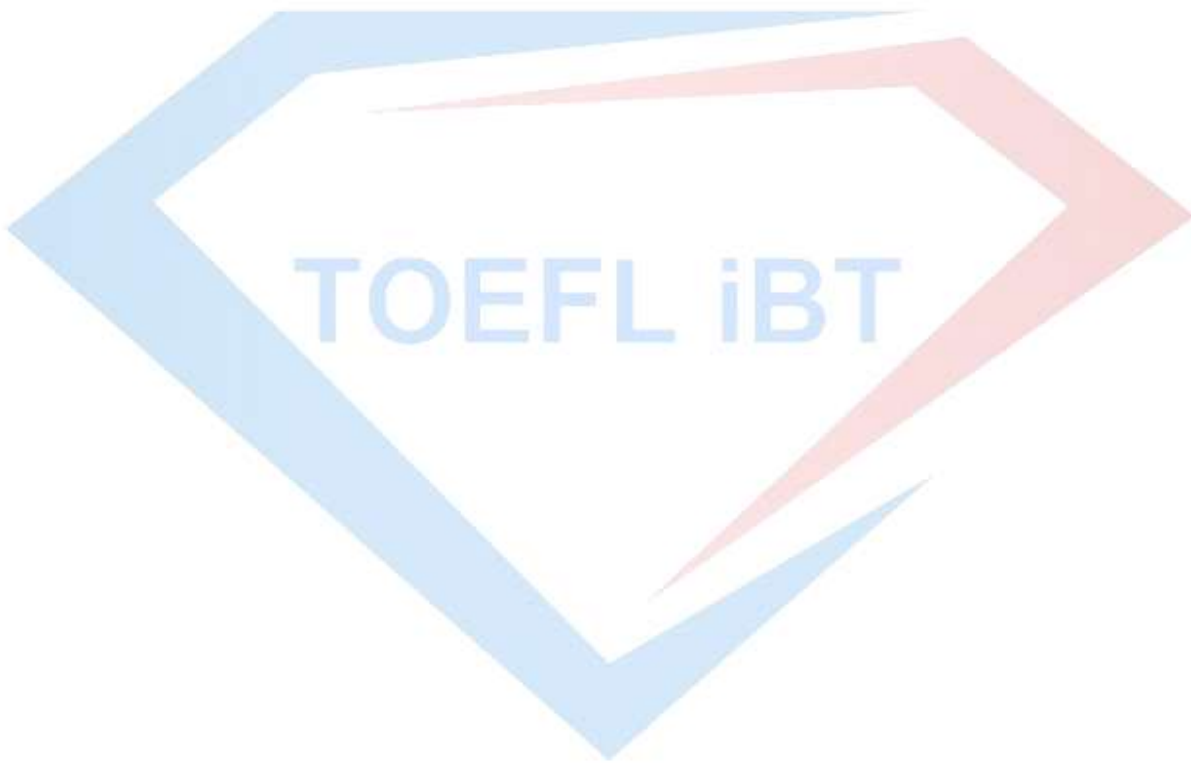
گردآورنده: حامد اعلانی

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## Writing for an Academic Discussion practice questions by ETS

Recent Test Prompts 1- 17 shared by SY.M. and Zhan

### Prompt 1

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

### Doctor Achebe

This week, we'll be discussing ways to address air pollution. One idea is introducing environmental taxes on air travel. Such taxes also referred to as ecological taxes or green taxes, are extra charges that get added to the price of airplane tickets. Money collected from these taxes could be invested in environmentally friendly technologies or in promoting other cleaner modes of transportation. Do you think there should be an environmental tax on air travel? Why or why not?

### Andrew

We should impose environmental taxes on air travel. These taxes might encourage people to find cheaper, more eco-friendly ways to get places. In my country, many people use planes to fly a short distance because flights are relatively cheap, when they could just as easily take a less polluting form of transportation.

### Claire

Additional taxes on air travel will do little to solve the problem of air pollution. Airplane tickets would become more expensive, punishing passengers without incentivizing airlines to become more environmentally friendly. The airlines should pay the price to protect the environment, not their customers



**Prompt 2**

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Doctor Achebe**

We have been discussing government budgets and the difficult decisions governments must make regarding the use of public funds. Some services are clearly essential and must be paid for by and government. But what about public funding of the arts? Do you believe that governments should provide financial support to artists- for example, painters, sculptors, musicians, or filmmakers? Why or why not?

**Claire**

I enjoy art as much as anyone does, but public funds come from taxes, and I don't think taxpayers' hard-earned money should be spent on impractical or inessential items and services. Artists should support themselves by selling their work to private individuals and companies. If they can't find enough buyers, then maybe they should change careers.

**Paul**

Personally, I think art actually is essential. Lots of public spaces in my hometown just wouldn't be the same without artwork. From statues in public parks to murals painted on the walls of government buildings, my hometown really benefits from funding the artists who created these works. The public spaces are simply more enjoyable for visitors because of the artwork.



**Prompt 3**

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

In your response, you should

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words. "

**Dr. Achebe**

High school curriculum is designed to ready students for future career paths, many of which include higher education. Whether or not students choose to attend college, a comprehensive high school education provides an essential foundation. Some educators argue that high schools have an obligation to provide career readiness training for students who do not intend to pursue a college degree. Should high schools invest time and money to develop programs for students who do not wish to continue their education beyond 12th grade? What is your opinion and why?

**Paul**

Career-readiness training should be provided for students who do not wish to pursue college and should be particularly targeted at students who are at risk of dropping out. By reframing their high school experience as training for successful careers rather than government-mandated learning, students can succeed where they may previously have failed.

**Claire**

Students who do not want to pursue higher education should not be given additional accommodations in high school, because they should not be provided any incentives to not attend college. College is the best way to learn how to be productive in the workforce, and students should be encouraged to attend, since it is in their best interest.



**Prompt 4**

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

In your response you should:

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

For most people, advertisements are nearly impossible to avoid. Whether watching TV, surfing the web, playing a video game or even reading an e-book, we are subjected to a near-constant wave of advertisements. Some advertisements, such as commercials on TV or the radio, are direct and overt. Other types of advertising more subtle, such as product placement, where the company pays to have its product featured prominently in TV or a video game. Given advertising's many forms and its consistent presence in our lives, it is worthwhile considering the influence of advertisements on the individual. What do you think and why?

**Paul**

Without ads, it would be difficult for us to make informed purchasing decisions: Ads not only tell us what products exist but also help us choose the products that best suit our needs. Ads provide us with various products to meet our needs and choose what we really need.

**Claire**

Ads distort our sense of what is valuable and desirable. They create within us a false need and convince us that the way to fulfill that need is to buy the advertised products. Consumers may end up purchasing many unnecessary products and find them in financial difficulty.



**Prompt 5**

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

In your response you should:

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

Owing to the fast development of urbanization, a huge amount of people flushing into the city makes the city traffic become increasingly crowded, which makes it urgent for our government to improve transportation system. Should a government prioritize investing in public transport system or facilitate people's own use of private vehicles?

**Paul**

I think government should give a priority to developing public transit system in order to solve traffic problems. Modernizing trains and buses, lowering ticket prices (fares), and expanding public transportation routes will help relieve the traffic jams on the road.

**Claire**

Helping people own and use private vehicles, such as cars, by offering low-interest loans, keeping gasoline prices low, and building better roads is an efficient way to alleviate crowded public transports. Thus, by private cars, people can enjoy a more comfortable and convenient travel, especially for those who live in a remote area, without having to chock in the crowded carriage for a long time.





**Prompt 6**

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

In your response you should:

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

A new story about new medical skills appears in the news almost daily. Of course, the government is spending a lot of money to develop new medical technology. Before the next class, I want you to consider the following questions: The new medical technology is effective, but with certain medical risks, in general, do you think the benefits outweigh the disadvantages, or do the disadvantages outweigh the benefits, for improving people's health?

**Paul**

I think the new medical technology is a threat to society. With the progress of new science and technology, some people will use the new medical technology to make money because the price is high, so people need to pay a greater price, and it also becomes a means of profit for some people with bad intentions. At the same time, there may be high risk, because the new technology leads to people's health risks.

**Claire**

I disagree with Paul. I think the new medical technology is a progressive tool. It has the potential to solve many of the world's problems, from small diseases to serious diseases. Moreover, new medical technologies can help us make better decisions by analyzing large amounts of data and identifying patterns that humans may miss. Of course, we must ensure that the government develops and uses it in a responsible way that benefits the society as a whole.



**Prompt 7**

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

In your response you should:

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Doctor Achebe:**

In the next few weeks, we'll be talking about urban traffic management. Let's begin by discussing one popular idea-- creating car-free central zones. Some cities around the world have recently designated their downtown areas as being automobile-free which means that vehicles are not allowed to enter the city centers. Do you think that more cities should make their central zones car-free? Why or why not?

**Claire**

I support the idea of establishing car-free central zones because this will result in one important benefit for city residents--it will be better for their health. Instead of driving everywhere, people will be encouraged to walk or cycle more. It would be a great way to incorporate exercise into people's routines.

**Paul**

It sounds like a good idea but I'm skeptical. My main concern is that many businesses located in the city centers such as shops and restaurants may suffer because the customers will no longer be able to reach those businesses by car. For some customers, if they can't drive, they won't go at all.



**Prompt 8**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Diaz**

We are looking this week at different ways businesses market their products and services especially nontraditional methods. One thing that marketers pay close attention to is online reviews of their products. A business might include customer reviews on their website or carefully monitor the reviews on third-party sites. I would like you to discuss your own experiences with online reviews. Do you find them useful when deciding whether or not to buy a product?

**Claire**

I think online reviews are a great source of information because they are written by ordinary customers who are like me. For instance, when I read a restaurant review by a professional food critic, I'm not interested in some of the details that are included, like how the food is prepared. I'm more interested in aspects like the quality of the food and the service, which regular customers usually comment on

**Andrew**

To me, online reviews have some real problems. First, people are more likely to post reviews after a bad experience than after a good one. As a result, what you read is often weighted toward the negative. Also, you have no way of knowing whether reviewers know what they are talking about or even if they actually bought and used the product they are reviewing.



**Prompt 9**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

This week, we'll examine issues in education reform. For example, some educators think that by focusing mainly on foundational knowledge in subjects like reading, math, and science, schools are not fully preparing students for success in the workplace. These educators argue that soft skills—nonacademic skills such as being empathetic or having a strong work ethic—should be part of the curriculum, with classroom time dedicated to developing these skills. Do you agree? Why or why not?

**Claire**

I agree. While students need a strong foundation in academic subjects, soft skills are important because they affect how we students do their work. If classroom time is set aside for these skills, students will take them seriously and their academic work will benefit. Teachers could design lessons so that students learn about a skill and then do role-playing activities with classmates.

**Andrew**

Soft skills are important, but I don't agree with using classroom time to work on them. I'm not sure how teachers would measure students' progress in developing these skills. If students' progress can't be measured on something being taught, I'm not sure if there's any point to teaching it.



**Prompt 10**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

This week we are talking about how different cities choose to either preserve or replace older, historic buildings. Some cities have strict rules about preserving older buildings and homes, especially those with historic architecture. Others tend to encourage new construction to replace structures that are aging and decaying. Should cities try to save historic buildings or replace them with more modern ones?

**Paul**

I think the preservation of old historic buildings involves a lot of problems, especially in densely populated cities. In modern cities, land is very valuable, and old buildings just do not provide as much living and working space as modern high-rise buildings. Also, they were not built to modern standards, so they may waste energy through inefficient heating and cooling

**Kelly**

It's important to preserve historic buildings. Keeping original architecture helps preserve a city's culture. Even on the practical side, most big cities get an economic benefit from tourism, and historic buildings like hotels and theaters are big attractions. Who wants to visit a city where all the buildings are glass and steel and look like buildings in every other city?



**Prompt 11**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

In class this week, we are looking at how markets work, particularly in regard to energy costs. Petroleum, also known simply as oil, is one of the most important international commodities. When the global market price of oil goes up, fuels such as gasoline (petrol) also become more expensive. Many people think governments should step in to protect consumers from increases in fuel prices. What is your view? Do you think governments should actively keep fuel prices low for consumers?

**Kelly**

I think it's a good government policy. Most people have to drive or use public transportation, like a bus, to get to work. When the price of gasoline goes up, it costs them more to get to work. People don't have a choice about whether to go to work or not, so they should be protected from price increases.

**Andrew**

I think the government keeping gas prices low is a bad policy. The biggest problem we face now is global climate change. The more expensive gasoline is, the less people will drive, and thus they will contribute fewer greenhouse gases to the air. Lowering the cost of gas just makes the problem worse.



**Prompt 12**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

Let's continue talking about consumer behavior. We have been discussing different ways people go about choosing what products to buy, and there are many potential sources of information and advice for consumers. In your opinion, which is the better strategy for making purchasing decisions, relying on advice from friends and family, or depending on information from online sources? Why?

**Claire**

Asking friends and family members for product recommendations might seem like an easier option, but it might take too much time to get all the information you need. An internet search would be much more efficient. There are many consumer magazines available online that compile lots of data to compare the advantages and disadvantages of one product versus another

**Paul**

The last time I bought a computer, I just watched a few videos online to make a decision, and now I regret that. My friends could have advised me better because they know my preferences and the kind of features that I am interested in. Consumers should get advice from the people around them to find the most suitable products



**Prompt 13**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Gupta**

Automation is a much-discussed topic in economics, one that continues to grow in importance with today's advances in robotics and artificial intelligence, or AI. Robots and AI provide powerful ways to replace human labor by doing work better and faster than people can. Automation can have very positive effects on businesses and the broader economy, but there are disadvantages as well. What do you think? Is the use of automation a positive development overall? Why or why not?

**Paul**

I think the use of automation is a positive development. If AI and robots are used instead of human workers, companies will be able to produce many more products than they do now. They can also lower costs, making those products cheaper for people to buy. As a result, everyone will have access to more-affordable products.

**Kelly**

I worry about the psychological effects on people as AI and robots take over work. I doubt humans will really be happy with ever-greater amounts of leisure time. Many of us derive satisfaction from working and doing our jobs well. In fact, never in human history have we been able to spend large parts of our days labor-free.



**Prompt 14**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Achebe**

This week, we are discussing the social psychology of sports. We have learned that sports often have positive psychological effects on athletes, such as the members of sports teams. But how can we describe their effects on other groups of people, such as sports enthusiasts or sports fans? Consider the following question: When people spend a lot of time watching sports or following their favorite team, does it have a negative effect on their lives? Why or why not?

**Claire**

I agree that focusing on sports too much can have negative impacts. For example, some people who like watching sports on television have few other interests. In fact, it seems like watching sports is all they're interested in. I sometimes find such people annoying because they care too much about things that don't matter.

**Paul**

I am not sure what we mean by spending "a lot of time" following sports. But following sports has helped me in life. When I first met one of my best friends, Daphne, I started a conversation with her by saying something about a sports team I liked. Then we moved to other topics, but sports were a great conversation-starter.



**Prompt 15**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Diaz**

Today, we are going to discuss an emerging work arrangement known as job sharing. Job sharing is a type of employment in which one full-time position can be shared by two part-time workers; that is, the two people share the work, hours, and pay of one job. For example, two part-time accountants share one full-time accounting position, splitting the responsibilities of the position. Do you think the job-sharing arrangement is a positive trend? Why or why not?

**Claire**

I'm not sure job sharing is a good idea. I think it would be too confusing for employers to keep track of who is working on which day or who is responsible for certain projects. Coworkers who have questions about certain projects would also get confused about which person to address their questions to.

**Paul**

I think job sharing can lead to more fulfilling lives for a lot of people. Many workers want to continue developing their careers but don't want to spend so much time working full-time jobs. Some people want to spend time developing their hobbies or taking classes, for example. Job sharing could be very convenient for their schedules.



**Prompt 16**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Gupta**

One social phenomenon we discussed recently is this: when a person is in some trouble, some people help that person, while many others do nothing. Some people conclude that inaction—that is, doing nothing—makes the world a worse place. In your post, please discuss the causes or the effects of this social phenomenon; in other words, what are some reasons why people might choose not to help others, or what are some results of this inaction?

**Andrew**

In my opinion, one of the main causes behind this phenomenon of people not helping others is concern for our own interests. If I come across someone in a situation who needs help, I will want to help that person—but not if it creates some significant problem for me. Doing so will simply put us both in a bad situation.

**Kelly**

I agree that inaction makes the world worse. That means that we all have the responsibility to make the world a better place. An important effect of people not taking on this responsibility is that we may feel less trusting of our neighbors. Conversely, when others show that they are willing to help people, our community becomes stronger.



**Prompt 17**

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

In your response, you should do the following

- Express and support your opinion
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Diaz**

This week we will discuss issues faced by secondary school administrators. I'm referring to schools for teenage students. One such issue is students who change schools. Students change schools for many different reasons, the most common being a family move. On the discussion board, I want you to exchange ideas about what schools can do to make the transition to a new school easier for teenagers.

**Paul**

I think schools should assign new students a fellow student who can help them adjust. The "student buddy" can do things like make sure the new student can find the cafeteria or the right classrooms. For new students, it's a lot easier to ask a fellow student a question rather than ask a teacher or the principal.

**Claire**

I would require new students to sign up for some school club or activity that meets outside of class. That way, new students would have an easy way to meet other students in a friendly environment. It would give them a group to immediately identify with.

Topic 1 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:46 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

Let's think about population trends in urban and rural areas (villages). Living in urban areas can be expensive; nonetheless, when they have a choice of where to live, people in some countries do not wish to live in rural areas even if the cost of living there is lower. If governments of some countries want to attract more people to live in rural areas or villages, what is the best strategy or approach that governments can use? Why?



Claire

I would live in a rural area if the government gave more financial help to farmers. Although it may cost very little to live in a rural area, it costs a lot to begin a career in agriculture. If I had financial help, I would start my own farm and be happy to live in a rural area.



Kelly

In my country, urban centers are great places to live because you can access shops, restaurants, and museums. If the government of my country wanted to attract me to live in a rural area, the area would first have to attract more businesses focused on entertainment and culture than most rural areas have now.

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Topic 2 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:27 Hide Timer

write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Gupta

This week, I want you to discuss assessment criteria. Some schoolteachers give high grades (marks) only to those students who perform well on their homework assignments and tests. Other teachers, however, may give high grades to students who have worked very hard on their assignments but have not performed so well. Which approach do you think is better: Giving grades based only on performance, or grading students not just on performance but also on their effort?



Kelly

I think grades should be based on performance only. It's a matter of fairness. I'd be really upset if another student got nearly the same grade that I did when I turned in work that was almost perfect and the other student's work had incorrect answers or unclear ideas. It wouldn't matter to me if they worked harder.



Paul

Sure, evaluation should mainly be based upon the student's performance, but hard work should count for something. A student who works hard, even when the final grade isn't the highest in the class, builds character, which will benefit the student later in life when they go to university or apply for a job.

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Topic 3 Writing for an Academic Discussion


Section 1 of 1 00:09:13 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**


- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




**Doctor Diaz**

Nowadays, the world is facing a number of pressing environmental problems, and over the next few weeks, we'll be discussing various innovations that may help solve these problems. To begin our discussion, I'd like you to think of one global environmental problem—for example, it could be related to water, air, land, climate, biodiversity, energy, or something similar. Then explain what you think would be an effective solution to this problem.



**Kelly**

One of the major environmental problems is the limited freshwater supply in many areas of the world, which means that we need to find effective technologies to provide people with enough drinking water. One solution is to improve the technology for removing salt from seawater, which could allow us to use seawater to replenish dwindling freshwater supplies.



**Paul**

I think the biggest problem is the air pollution caused by the overuse of motorized vehicles. The obvious solution is for local governments to promote alternatives, like building bike lanes in cities or improving public transportation with electric buses. Both of these would be easy to implement as well.

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## Topic 4 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

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write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

This week, we'll look at how well students transition to university. Many recent high school graduates have taken a gap year—a yearlong break after graduation—before studying at a university. During a gap year, students may get jobs, travel, or simply relax and think about their future. Some students say their gap year was beneficial, while others regret having taken one. In your opinion, does taking a gap year create more advantages or disadvantages for students? Why?



Andrew

The gap year would be a good opportunity for students to reflect on their education goals and confirm their plans for university. At least it would give someone time to investigate different fields and get a better sense of what it means to be in business, to work in an office, or to work with their hands, etc.



Claire

Because university can be expensive, students should not take a gap year. Tuition, the cost of books, and living expenses rise every year. The money a student might save during a gap year might not be enough to cover the rise in prices when they enter university a year later.

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

In our textbook, we read that parks and other green spaces with trees and plants have numerous benefits for people in cities. But city governments sometimes must choose between using a piece of available land as a green space or using it for other important purposes, such as for shopping areas or for manufacturing plants. In your opinion, which is the better use for available urban space? Why?



Kelly

It's true that parks can benefit people in cities, especially health-wise. But it's more important to use the limited space for things that people cannot survive without, like hospitals or clinics. Medical care is often an urgent necessity. Visiting a park is not.



Claire

I'm all for creating green spaces for people to enjoy, but you don't necessarily need an open piece of land to do that. Let the available land be used for business or housing purposes. Green spaces can be created on the rooftops of existing buildings. And new buildings can be constructed creatively to include open spaces with plants and trees.

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## Topic 6 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:46 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

We've been discussing the importance of hiring and retaining highly skilled employees, but even the best employees may need to periodically update or further develop their work skills. One question facing managers is how much time and money to invest in improving the work skills of their employees. Some managers argue that ongoing employee training is the most important investment a company can make. What are your thoughts on the matter?



Andrew

I don't think that employee training is the most important investment a company can make. The company should be hiring the most skilled workers it can find in the first place. There are so many other unavoidable things that a company needs to spend money on that have to take precedence over training.



Kelly

Employees' leaving their jobs is always a risk, but providing ongoing training and skill development is more likely to make employees want to stay rather than go, in my opinion. When employers pay for training, employees are likely to feel more valued by their employer, and this can only improve the employer-employee relationship.

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

Companies now make computer games designed to help very young children learn. The games are advertised for use by children aged 2 to 8 years and often involve basic math and reading skills, presented in a fun, game-like style. Some people say that this results in children spending too much time looking at computer screens. Do you think it's a good idea for very young children to play educational computer games? Why or why not?



Andrew

I think it's completely inappropriate for children as young as 2 years old to play what are essentially video games. Even if the games are educational, the same skills can be taught in traditional ways—by reading books to children, for example. And it would be beneficial to interact with their parents in this way.



Kelly

Considering how important computers are to human societies these days, I think it actually makes sense to allow very young children to explore them. And if the computer games that children play also give them early access to subject matter that will later be taught in school, all the better.

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Topic 8 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:52 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

In 1930, a famous economist predicted that at the end of the twentieth century, an average worker would work only 15 hours a week, thanks to advances in technology. This did not happen, as we all know. Nonetheless, the balance between work time and free time remains an interesting question. So, let me ask you today: Twenty years in the future, will people have more leisure time (free time) and less work than they have today? Why, or why not?



Claire

I think it is likely that people will work shorter hours in twenty years than they do today. Our societies are becoming wealthier all the time. It does not seem necessary for people to continue working as hard as they do today. At some point, having more free time should be more important than creating more wealth.



Paul

I am not sure people will work less in the future. As Doctor Achebe wrote, a shortening of the workweek was predicted before. There are many factors that determine how long people work. Our economic system is very competitive. Workers are pushed to work longer and longer hours so that companies have a competitive advantage.

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Topic 9 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:54 Hide Timer

environmental science. write a post responding to the professor's question.

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

This week, we've discussed how carbon dioxide released by gasoline-powered (petrol-powered) cars pollutes the air and contributes to climate change. Let's focus now on two proposals that governments can consider as they try to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from cars. One proposal is to improve and expand public transportation. The other is to provide financial support to companies that make electric cars and to consumers who buy them. Which proposal do you think is better? Why?



Claire

I think improving public transportation would be more beneficial overall than giving tax breaks or rebates to particular companies and consumers. If taking a train or a bus is significantly easier, cheaper, and faster than driving a car, more people will want to use public transportation. With fewer cars on the road, there will be less air pollution.



Paul

I believe that providing financial support to electric-car manufacturers and consumers is the better innovative long-term strategy. Many people live in rural areas, and they need their own vehicles to get around. These people would not benefit from, say, more train lines being built in a far-off city.

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Topic 10 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:46 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

Our current unit looks at tourism and the benefit it has on a country's economy. Many argue that while tourism can indeed be a money-making endeavor, it can do more harm than good, especially tourism to small, remote places that are not heavily populated. What is your opinion? Should local or national governments promote tourism to remote regions not typically visited by tourists before? Why?



Andrew

Tourism has always been a lucrative business. Improving the economies of these rural regions, especially if those regions are poor, can only have a positive effect. People can have a better quality of life by showcasing their food and traditions to the outside world. It's a chance the people might not get without promotion from the government.



Claire

I don't think governments should promote tourism to remote regions. The people are likely not asking for this kind of industry or for this kind of attention. Instead, governments should develop other means of improving a region's economic situation, like expanding agriculture or other industries. These efforts will have a stronger, more permanent impact on the region than bringing in groups of tourists.

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**Topic 11 Writing for an Academic Discussion**

Section 1 of 1

00:09:37 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Doctor Gupta**

This week, we will be discussing a shortage of affordable housing that exists in many countries. In these places, housing—both apartments (flats) and houses—are expensive, because populations are growing faster than new housing is being built. Now, think about places in your country that have a housing shortage. In your post, I would like you to indicate the most effective way for the government to address a housing shortage in your country. Please explain why you think so.

**Claire**

In my country, there is a lack of affordable housing in the big cities. Low-cost housing exists in areas outside of the cities, but that means workers have long commutes to reach their jobs in the cities. I recommend that my government create initiatives to encourage the construction of large buildings with many affordable apartments in cities.

**Paul**

Claire's recommendation is fine, but many people prefer to live in a house rather than an apartment, even if they have longer commutes. Living in a house can be quieter and more private. So, I believe my government should give subsidies or tax relief to construction companies to build small, affordable single-family houses on unused land that surrounds many cities.

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### Topic 12 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:46 Hide Timer

write a post responding to the professors' question.

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Gupta**

Let's discuss how teachers' job performance is assessed or evaluated. Regular evaluations of teachers help to ensure that students receive high-quality instruction, that good teachers are rewarded, and that struggling teachers receive help to improve. But what is the best way to evaluate teachers? Should teachers be evaluated based on their students' test scores? Should more-experienced teachers evaluate less-experienced teachers? Should students' feedback be considered? Which approach is best, and why?



**Andrew**

I think experienced senior teachers are the best source of information for teacher evaluations. School leaders can assign experienced teachers to observe their fellow teachers periodically during class, and these senior teachers can then provide feedback on their colleagues' performance. An experienced teacher has the knowledge to determine what other teachers are doing well and what needs improvement.



**Kelly**

I'm not convinced that any one person's occasional visits to a classroom would provide accurate information. I'd like a more objective, fairer source of data, so I'd prefer to rely on test scores to inform teacher evaluations. If all students take the same test, and some classes perform better than others, then we know which teachers have been most successful.

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### Topic 13 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

Teachers often ask school administrators for permission to take their students on field trips (for example, to museums or historical buildings). Some school administrators provide funding and encouragement for teachers to organize educational trips for the entire class. Many believe that going on field trips is an important part of a child's education; others think that a child's time is better spent learning in a classroom at school. Which view do you agree with? Why?



Kelly

Field trips are so demanding of a teacher's time; I can understand why some people aren't in favor of them. Teachers can't just decide that it might be fun to take their class to an art museum. They must plan carefully to help children get the most out of that trip while not losing too much instructional time.



Paul

Field trips can affect kids' futures in important ways. One time I went on a field trip to a space museum when I was young. I even got to try on a space suit. That experience made me want to be an astronomer. I might not have developed my interest in astronomy without that field trip experience.

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Topic 14 Writing for an Academic Discussion


Section 1 of 1 00:09:36 Hide Timer

readiness. write a post responding to the professor's question.

**In your response, you should do the following.**


- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




**Doctor Gupta**

When students are preparing to graduate from university, they need to make decisions about what kind of company they want to work for. They might consider large, older companies with an established reputation, or possibly new start-up companies, which tend to be small but very focused on the future. Consider the advantages of each. Would it generally be better for a new university graduate to begin working for a large, established company, or for a small start-up company? Why?



**Kelly**

I think in general, the established company is the better choice. Because they're already well-known, these companies have a certain amount of respect in the business community, so it would look good to have that job experience on your résumé. That advantage alone would be a great start for a recent graduate.



**Andrew**

I see your point, Kelly, but taking a position at a start-up company would offer so much excitement. They often have an energy that older companies can't match—everyone can be focused on new, innovative business practices and they would be more aggressive about getting new clients. That would be a much better experience for someone fresh out of university!

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### Topic 15 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:42 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

Our next class will focus on how companies maintain their staffing levels. While it is important for a company to look for new employees to fill open positions, many believe it is equally important for a company to retain the workers it already has on staff. In your opinion, what is the best way for a company to encourage its employees to stay at the company instead of seeking a different job elsewhere?



Paul

I think the best thing a company could do to keep its employees is to create a work environment that employees look forward to going to five days a week. Cramped office spaces or disorderly factory floors are not places I would want to spend a third of my life.



Claire

I see Paul's point. But even more important than a nice workspace is making sure the employees don't feel stuck in their jobs. Companies should offer opportunities for employees to advance their skills so they can get new positions within the company if they want. Employees should feel like they have a goal to work toward.

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### Topic 16 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:40 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Diaz

This week, we'll look at practices and activities used by primary and secondary school teachers. Let's begin by discussing journal writing activities. Some teachers ask students to keep a journal and to regularly write down their thoughts about a recent lesson or respond to a question presented by the teacher. There are also many teachers who never assign journal writing. Now, I'd like your opinion: Is journal writing a worthwhile activity to support learning? Why or why not?



Claire

I think getting students into the habit of writing reflectively can be very beneficial. Journal writing gives students an opportunity to develop their own ideas about what they're learning whether it's for a math class or a literature class. It could also give the teacher an informal way to gauge how well students are comprehending the lessons.



Paul

I'm not convinced journal writing is worthwhile in classes. Teachers have a lot of material to cover, and students have much to learn. Unless a student is particularly interested in journal keeping, the student might view journaling as just more busy work. For there to be a benefit, students would need to take it seriously. I don't think all would.

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### Topic 17 Writing for an Academic Discussion


Section 1 of 1 00:09:21 Hide Timer

question.

**In your response, you should do the following.**


- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




**Doctor Achebe**

Next, we'll be discussing the future of higher education, focusing on proposals for making postsecondary education (education after high school) more efficient and more accessible. One such proposal is to make class attendance optional. For instance, under an optional-attendance policy, university students could choose not to attend classes but instead study the course materials and acquire the knowledge on their own time. Their grade would then be based entirely on exams or papers. What are your thoughts on this approach?



**Claire**

I like the idea of optional attendance. University students have a lot going on, and sometimes it's difficult to make it to class. As long as students are held accountable for the information they're supposed to learn, I don't see why they should have to attend every class session, especially for classes that meet multiple times a week.



**Andrew**

I have to disagree with Claire. I think that class attendance policies foster another important kind of accountability. They teach discipline and responsibility. Many of the jobs that university or trade school students will pursue after graduation have their own attendance policies, so students should see class attendance as good preparation for entering the workforce.

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### Topic 18 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:49 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Diaz**

We've been discussing ways that parents can help prepare their teenage children for adulthood. One line of thinking is that parents should encourage their teenagers to take part-time jobs to help them learn to be responsible, even if it is not an economic necessity for the teenagers to work. What are your thoughts on the issue? Should parents urge teenage children to get a job? Why or why not?



**Claire**

Teenagers should work part-time. When I was 16, I washed dishes at a restaurant, and I'm glad I did. I learned a lot about time management. I had to use my free time wisely to make sure I could complete homework despite spending time working at a job. This is a valuable life skill.



**Andrew**

I would have to disagree. A teenager is still just a kid, and in my opinion, a kid needs to focus on going to school and learning. A job would be an unnecessary distraction. If it's all about learning responsibility, I think there are a lot of other ways to do that without the commitment required by a job.

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## Topic 19 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:44 Hide Timer

to the professor's question.

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

In our discussion on the importance of workplace mentoring, we learned that mentoring (training or guiding someone) is typically associated with senior employees—that is, workers who have been at a company for a long time and mentor younger colleagues. However, at some companies, especially those that use innovative technology, younger employees sometimes train or guide senior colleagues. Do you think that it is a good idea for companies to encourage younger employees to mentor senior coworkers? Why or why not?



Claire

I support the idea of having younger employees mentor senior ones. Technology is developing so rapidly these days, and young people are much more skilled in dealing with technology than older employees are. It's the ideal way for senior employees to learn new digital skills.



Kelly

Claire makes a good point, but technology aside, I do not think that younger employees make good mentors right away. When younger employees join companies, they often lack the experience needed to be fully effective in their roles. They should be mentored by senior coworkers who have achieved a high level of expertise in their work.

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## Topic 20 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:44 Hide Timer

resource management. write a post responding to the professor's question.

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Achebe**

This week, we'll be discussing how technological advances are transforming the job market, making some jobs unnecessary. Let's focus on government actions. Suppose the government had to choose between two ways in which to support people whose jobs are no longer needed. The government could either give them enough money to live on until they find new jobs or offer them free job training without giving them money directly. Which of these two solutions do you think is better? Why?



**Andrew**

I believe that the government should prioritize providing free job training opportunities. Modern training programs are usually costly, which means that many people will not be able to afford them without the government's funding. By participating in training programs, people will develop new, in-demand skills and become more competitive in the job market.



**Kelly**

Although I agree that having access to free training programs sounds promising, I think the government's first step should be to give people enough money to live on until they find new jobs. This money will go directly into people's pockets and allow them to make their own choices concerning their future.

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Topic 21 Writing for an Academic Discussion


Section 1 of 1 00:09:41 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**


- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




**Doctor Achebe**

Teachers have to study for a long time to earn teaching degrees before they are ready to work in the classroom. Some people feel that in addition to earning a university degree, teachers should be required to take courses every few years to update their knowledge. Do you agree that there should be a mandate for teachers to take courses every few years, so they know the latest developments in their fields? Why or why not?



**Andrew**

I support this policy of making teachers continue to take courses throughout their careers. This is especially important for science teachers because new scientific discoveries are made all the time. Teachers need to be aware of any new developments in their content areas so they can update their lesson plans as needed to make sure students are getting current information.



**Claire**

I think this mandate sounds good in theory, but it might be hard to implement. Teachers already have very busy schedules, as they spend a lot of time preparing lessons, teaching, and grading. Teachers also often participate in different professional development opportunities, so taking mandatory courses on top of all this work might be burdensome for many teachers.

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## Topic 22 Writing for an Academic Discussion


Section 1 of 100:09:52 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**


- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




**Doctor Gupta**

This week, we'll be looking into family dynamics. One common concern in our field is that due to busy schedules, many families have limited time to spend together, so connections within families may grow weaker over time. Let's begin by discussing the following viewpoint: the best way for a family to strengthen family bonds is to work on something together, for example, cooking, gardening, or working on a craft project. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint? Why?



**Andrew**

I agree. Families feel more connected while working together rather than while doing passive activities, such as watching TV. While working together, family members have an opportunity to engage in an in-depth discussion and share their thoughts and feelings. Working toward a common goal, such as planting a garden, helps families create happy memories and feel a sense of accomplishment.



**Claire**

I don't think working together is the best way for every family to strengthen family bonds because every family is different and even within one family, it is difficult to find tasks that are interesting to everyone. While working together, family members may disagree about how to best accomplish tasks, which may result in an argument.

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Topic 23 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1 00:09:50 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Dr. Diaz**

This week we looked at how the cinema—the physical building where we watch films—has evolved over the years. Now, I want you to consider this question: with so many internet streaming services available for viewing films at home, do you think cinemas will cease to exist in the future? Will a time come when people stop going to cinemas entirely? Why or why not?

**Paul**

In my opinion, cinemas are here to stay. For thousands of years, people have been sharing the collective experience of watching a show, whether it was a live performance at a theater in ancient Greece or a recorded film in a cinema in today's society. And they will continue to want that shared viewing experience.

**Claire**

I agree that cinemas are becoming obsolete, but I don't think it's because of technology. Many of the best films these days are being produced as ten- or twelve-part miniseries, with much more focus on character development. These productions are meant to be watched on television. You don't need a big screen to enjoy them.

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Section 1 of 1

00:09:49 Hide Timer

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

In your response, you should do the following.

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Doctor Achebe

Next week, we'll be discussing the role of museums in society, and we'll explore the various contexts, social and otherwise, in which museums operate. Today, I'd like you to think about the benefits of museums. For a city and its residents, what do you think is the most significant advantage of having a museum located in that city? Explain why you think so.



Andrew

Museums can inspire people in many ways. If a city has a museum, people have access to out-of-the-ordinary experiences. Whether in a room with sixteenth-century paintings or some moon rocks, being near fascinating objects from the past transports people out of their everyday lives. It can offer them a new perspective or a sense of possibility in their lives.



Claire

Andrew makes a good point, but personally, I see greater benefit in the social aspect of museum-going. I think the biggest advantage of having a museum nearby is that people can come together for events like exhibitions and lectures or to volunteer. Museums foster a sense of community in a city. They can unite people in a common appreciation of something.

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## Topic 25 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:20 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Achebe**

This week, we will be discussing leadership; more specifically, we will be examining the various qualities found in all successful business leaders. To get you thinking about this topic, I'd like you to consider the following question: What is more important for being an effective leader of a business—excellent communication skills or a strong technical background in a particular industry?



**Andrew**

The best leaders are the ones who are good communicators. If employees clearly understand what is expected of them—if their leader can articulate clearly and concisely what they need to do to achieve their goals—they will be more productive and efficient in their work.



**Kelly**

It doesn't matter how well a company's leader communicates if they don't have a deep understanding of the business itself. Employees aren't going to be motivated by a company president who gives a great speech if it's evident that the president doesn't know what they do in their day-to-day work.

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## Topic 26 Writing for an Academic Discussion

Section 1 of 1

00:09:55 Hide Timer

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Gupta**

This week, we'll study an issue that is often debated by economists. There are many large industries that, while providing significant economic benefits, engage in practices that result in environmental harm. Some would argue that economic success should never come at the cost of damage to the environment. Do you agree with this view? Why or why not?



**Paul**

I can't say I agree. Everyone talks about protecting natural resources, but what about protecting humans? Humans need the ability to work and provide for their families, and sometimes this means creating jobs through industries that might contribute to pollution. Those industries can just be monitored by environmental agencies. That's a win-win solution.



**Kelly**

I see your point, Paul, but I don't think there are many industries that are so essential for the economy that their impact on the environment can be ignored or merely "monitored." Continual environmental damage will one day lead to the extinction of species that are essential to agriculture. That will endanger our food chain.

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Diaz**

Starting this week, we will discuss how public transportation is funded. Public transportation gives people from all social groups access to their homes, workplaces, and shopping. Some argue that public transportation should be supported by tax revenue so that all people could have free access to it. What do you think? Should public transportation be free to all? Why or why not?



**Kelly**

People already pay so much in taxes for things like schools, roads, and law enforcement. I don't think that adding one more tax—especially when some people don't even use public transportation—would be a good idea. People need money for other essentials for their families.



**Paul**

Free public transportation would result in having fewer cars on the roads. Also, it would mean cleaner air for the cities, and there are many health conditions that could be improved with cleaner air. I think the savings in health-care costs and less pollution would make it worth it.

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

**In your response, you should do the following.**

- Express and support your opinion.
- Make a contribution to the discussion in your own words.

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



**Doctor Diaz**

This week, we will be looking at how consumers feel about their purchases of technology. Many people find that buying devices such as mobile phones or personal computers can be very difficult. They feel like they're not prepared to make the best decision to suit their needs. In your posts, I want you to discuss the following question: What do you believe is the biggest mistake that people make when buying tech products? Explain what this mistake is.



**Claire**

I think one problem is that people don't match the product's capabilities to their actual needs. My brother just got a new mobile phone, and he is very excited about how highly rated the camera is. But he hardly ever takes photos. So he paid for a feature that he doesn't really need.



**Paul**

When people buy a new piece of hardware, like a laptop, they often don't consider the software they are purchasing along with the hardware. If the software is not what you are used to or doesn't work with your existing files, it can be frustrating to learn a new way of using your laptop.

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Extra Topic 1 Writing for an Academic Discussion

**Instructions**

Your professor is teaching a class on economics. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response you should:

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Professor Henson

When people are asked about the most important discoveries or inventions made in the last two hundred years, they usually mention something very obvious, like the computer or the cell phone. But there are thousands of other discoveries or inventions that have had a huge impact on how we live today. What scientific discovery or technological invention from the last 200 years—other than computers and cell phones—would you choose as being important? Why?



Paul N

I mean, we're so used to science and technology that we are not even aware of all the things we use in our daily lives. I would probably choose space satellites. This technology happened in the last hundred years, and it has become important for so many things. Just think about navigation, or telecommunications, or even the military.



Lena A

I am thinking about medical progress. Like, for example, when scientists discovered things about healthy nutrition. I am thinking of identifying all the vitamins we need to stay healthy. I am not sure exactly when the vitamin discoveries happened, but I know they are very important. Our health is much better than it was 200 years ago.

**Sample Responses**

**Sample Response 1:**

For me, the invention of the airplane, by Brazilian inventor Santos Dumont, is a good example of a important invention from the last two centuries. It made possible to connect different places even if they are thousand of miles away one from another. People can be in any place of the world within twenty four hours or less from the time they get inside an airplane. This is fantastic! Also, the world trade become more efficient. You can eat fresh lobsters from northeastern Brazil even if you are in Dubai! I think that is really interesting. Since the ancient Greece the man wanted to fly like the birds, and Mr Dumont made it possible. And I am partiullary proud



### Extra Topic 2 Writing for an Academic Discussion

#### Instructions

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response you should:

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Dr. Diaz

We are all exposed to a lot of advertising, especially on the internet. And of course businesses spend a lot of money to create and distribute advertising. Before next class, I would like for you to discuss this question:

Is advertising just a way of manipulating people to buy things they do not need, or is it an important source of information that helps people make informed consumer decisions?



Karen

I don't think most people consider ads to be valuable. I read that in just one year, from 2018 to 2019, the number of computers, tablets and mobile phones using ad blockers increased from 142 million to 615 million.



Brad

People can find out a lot about products from advertising. There's plenty of evidence that people usually begin the process of making a big purchase by looking at ads and reviews. I have to go to another class right now, but I'm going to post later about an advertisement that gave me a lot of useful information.

#### Sample Responses

##### Sample Response 1:

I think whether advertising is valuable or not depends on its degree of customization and personalization. If big data and other new advanced technologies can really help us to receive the ads we really want, I think in this way, ads will be beneficial. For example, if you are a female college student who likes kpop, when you are browsing the websites, some ads about BTS concerts pop up, you may not feel that unhappy, instead, you may choose to click the ads and buy the concert tickets. However, if a sea of ads about football show up, you may feel angry and see them with no value.

### Extra Topic 3 Writing for an Academic Discussion

#### Instructions

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

In your response you should:

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Dr. Gupta

As I mentioned in class, governments make public policies to describe their responses to various problems that affect a community. Part of this process involves setting and defending priorities about which issues deserve the most attention and resources. For example, governments need to decide whether they should spend more money on education or on environmental protections. If you were a policy maker, which issue would you argue is more important—education or environmental protections? Why?



Sara B.

We all live on planet Earth, and it is the only planet we have. Therefore, we must take care of it. Clearly, protecting the environment should be the government's priority over education. I think the REAL question is, which approach to protecting the environment—restricting pollution, regulating population, promoting clean energy, or something else—should be the government's priority.



Taehyun O.

I disagree with Sara that that the environment is more important than education. Education is actually the best way to protect the environment. Educated people can see how their decisions affect the world around them. Also, with better science and technology education, we can develop solutions to environmental problems. Therefore, I think the government should spend more money on education.

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### Extra Topic 4 Writing for an Academic Discussion

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

**In your response you should:**

- express and support your opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.



Dr. Diaz

Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at lots of different materials about the role of television programs and television watching in people's lives. But first, I want to know what you think about this topic. So here's a question for the class discussion board:

What do you think is the most significant effect that watching television has on people? Why do you think television has this effect?



Kelly

I know that one way that television influences people's behavior is that when you are watching television, you are not moving around or exercising. This is especially true for children. When children spend a lot of time watching television, they have a greater tendency to be overweight.



Paul

I think the main effect that television has on people is to broaden their experience. There are so many programs devoted to nature and travel. Think of all the different places in the world you can experience through television! Last night I watched a program about life in Antarctica, and it was fascinating!

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## Writing for an Academic Discussion practice questions by toeflresources

### Topic 1:

Your professor is teaching a class on economics. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

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

**Professor:** Today we're going to talk about the debate between economic growth and protecting the environment. Economic growth creates new jobs and gives people money they can use to improve their lives. On the other hand, if we protect the environment it can be enjoyed both by ourselves and future generations. If you had to choose between prioritizing economic growth or protecting the environment, which one would you choose. Why?

**Alex:** I would prioritize the environment. We only have one planet and if we don't take care of it, we won't have pleasant lives in the future. Economic growth can be important, but not at the expense of the environment. I think we need to shift towards more environmentally-friendly economic practices, such as investing in renewable energy and promoting environmentally-friendly technologies. We'll all live much healthier lives if the world around us is clean.

**Maggie:** While I agree with Alex that environmental sustainability is important, I think that economic growth is the only way to solve many of the social and economic problems we face. We need a strong economy to create jobs, reduce poverty, and improve standards of living. Not only that, but if companies grow stronger and more profitable, they might eventually develop new technologies that solve our environmental problems.



## Topic 2:

Your professor is teaching a class on marketing. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

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

**Professor:** Today, we're discussing the ethics of targeted advertising. Some people argue that online advertising which uses personal information to target specific people is an invasion of privacy. Others argue that it's simply an acceptable way to reach consumers with products and services they're interested in. What's your take? Do you think targeted advertising is ethical, or is it an invasion of privacy?

**Jessica:** I think targeted advertising is an invasion of privacy. Advertisers shouldn't be able to track and use our personal information to sell us products. It's not fair to consumers, and it's a violation of our rights. Instead, advertisers should focus on creating high-quality ads that appeal to a broad audience.

**Mike:** I disagree with Jessica. I think targeted advertising is ethical. It's a more efficient way to reach consumers with products and services that are relevant to their interests. Plus, consumers can always opt-out of targeted advertising by adjusting their privacy settings. As long as advertisers give users a choice, I think targeted advertising can be beneficial for both businesses and consumers.



### Topic 3:

Your professor is teaching a class on social studies. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Today, we're going to discuss the impact of social media on society. On one hand, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have connected people from all over the world. However, there are concerns about the negative effects of social media, such as the spread of misinformation, the rise of cyberbullying, and addiction to social media use. What do you think? Does social media cause more harm than good?

**Sarah:** I think that social media has caused more harm than good. While it's true that social media platforms have connected people in unprecedented ways, they have also caused real harm to individuals and societies. Additionally, social media platforms have been linked to mental health problems such as anxiety and depression, particularly among young people.

**Mark:** I disagree with Sara. I think that social media has mostly improved society. For instance, it has given a voice to people that previously were ignored. Moreover, it has provided a platform for political activism that has led to positive change. And, of course, social media has made it easy for everyone to stay connected to family and friends who are far away. While there are negative aspects of social media, they are far outweighed by the benefits.



### Topic 4:

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** In class today, we are going to talk about grading students. Before you come to class, I want you to think about whether grades are beneficial. On one hand, they provide a way to measure students' progress. On the other hand, some argue that grades are too focused on performance and don't provide an accurate picture of a student's overall academic abilities. If you had to choose, would you say that students should be given grades or not? Why?

**Lila:** I think that students should not be given grades. Grades create a needlessly competitive environment and can make students feel like they are only valued for their academic performance. This can be harmful to their mental health and can discourage them. Instead of giving specific grades, teachers should provide personal feedback that helps students understand what they need to improve and how they can do so.

**Jake:** I disagree. I believe that grades are the only way for students to understand how well they are doing and the only way to motivate them to work harder. Without grades, there would be no way to measure their progress or to identify areas where they need to improve. Moreover, grades prepare students for the real world where they will be judged based on their performance.





### Topic 5:

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Today we're going to discuss whether the government should tax unhealthy products, such as sugary drinks and junk food. On one hand, taxing these products could discourage people from consuming them and reduce health problems. On the other hand, some argue that such taxes unfairly target lower-income families who may rely on these products as affordable sources of food. If you had to choose, would you support or oppose taxing unhealthy products? Why?

**Sam:** I support the idea of taxing unhealthy products. These products are often high in sugar, salt, and fat, which can lead to serious health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. As you said, by taxing these products, the government can discourage people from consuming them and resolve some of these health issues. Moreover, the revenue generated from such taxes can be used to fund advertising campaigns that promote healthy eating habits.

**Tanya:** I disagree. I believe that such taxes are unfair to families that don't have a lot of money. Wealthy people will not care about the taxes and their habits won't change. Additionally, if these taxes are implemented people might try to save money by purchasing lower-quality products that are cheaper in the first place. That means they could suffer even more health problems.



## Topic 6:

Your professor is teaching a class on computer science. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** A new story about Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in the news almost every day. And, of course, companies are spending an enormous amount of money to develop new technologies related to AI. Before next class, I want you to consider the following question:

Is AI a dangerous technology that, overall, will be harmful to society, or is it a powerful tool that will improve the lives of people?

**Megan:** Personally, I think AI is a threat to society. As AI technology advances, many jobs may become automated, leaving people without work and that will certainly increase income inequality. Additionally, there's the risk that AI systems could be programmed with biases or used to discriminate against certain groups. We need to be careful and ensure that AI is developed in an ethical and responsible way. Since we can't guarantee that right now, I think it is best to slow down when it comes to this kind of technology.

**David:** I disagree with Megan. I'm of the opinion that AI is a tool for progress. It has the potential to solve many of the world's problems, from climate change to disease. Additionally, AI can help us make better decisions by analyzing vast amounts of data and identifying patterns that humans may miss. That said, I agree with Megan that we must ensure that AI is developed and used in a responsible way that benefits society as a whole.



**Topic 7:**

Your professor is teaching a class on social studies. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Life expectancies are increasing all over the world nowadays. Some of you probably know someone who is more than 100 years old. Before our next class, I want you to consider the following question:

What factors do you think have contributed to the increase in life expectancy? Is it due to advances in medical technology, improvements in public health, changes in lifestyle habits, or something else entirely?

**Lisa:** I think the main reason why people are living longer nowadays is recent advances in medical technology. Modern medicine has enabled us to better treat and manage chronic illnesses, and there have been major breakthroughs in areas such as cancer treatment and organ transplantation. As a result, people are able to live longer with diseases that may have been fatal in the past.

**John:** While medical technology has certainly played a role, I think improvements in public health have been just as important. We now have access to clean drinking water, sanitation systems, and vaccines that have dramatically reduced the incidence of infectious diseases. Even a century ago, people didn't have access to any of these things. Additionally, public health campaigns have helped educate people about healthy lifestyle habits such as exercise, healthy eating, and not smoking, which can also contribute to longer lifespans.



## Topic 8

Your professor is teaching a class on public administration. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Funding for education is a really hot topic nowadays, so today we're going to talk about how universities use their limited resources. In the discussion board please respond to the following question:

Should universities prioritize funding academic facilities like libraries, or is it okay to spend just as much money on sports and athletic programs?

**Rachel:** I think universities should prioritize funding for libraries. Libraries are essential for academic research and study, and they provide students with access to information and resources that they might not have otherwise. Investing in libraries can also help attract and retain the most talented professors, which can ultimately benefit the university as a whole. Sports, on the other hand, appeal to just a small percentage of people. Even in our school, most students aren't on a sports team and don't make use of the fitness center or athletic fields.

**Mike:** While I agree that libraries are important, I think that sports programs should also be a priority for universities. Sports can bring the campus community together, even if that just means they attend sports and cheer for their favorite athletes. Meanwhile, among the athletes themselves, sports promote teamwork and leadership skills. Additionally, successful sports programs can generate revenue for the university and boost its reputation.



## Topic 9:

Your professor is teaching a class on political science. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** As you know, city governments have a responsibility to improve the lives of residents. In today's class we're going to discuss the best way for them to do that. What strategy do you think governments should use to improve the overall quality of life of residents?

**Maria:** I think investing in infrastructure should be the main priority for every local government. This could include things like repairing roads and bridges, expanding public transportation, and improving access to clean water and sanitation. Good infrastructure can improve people's daily lives, make it easier to get around, and attract new businesses and residents to the area. It can also prevent serious accidents and protect us from illnesses that damage our health.

**Tom:** While I agree that infrastructure is important, I think that social programs should also be a major focus. The government could invest in things like education, affordable housing, and healthcare, which can help address issues like poverty, inequality, and access to basic needs. By providing these types of services, the government can help improve people's well-being. These are things that everyone benefits from... unlike a road which is only used by people who drive cars.



**Topic 10:**

Your professor is teaching a class on business. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should express and support your personal opinion and make a contribution to the discussion in your own words

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Today, we're going to discuss the ways in which companies can impact society. In your opinion, what is the best way for a company to have a positive impact on society?

**Sarah:** I believe that companies should focus on their own operations. While charitable giving can be beneficial, it is a temporary fix that doesn't address the root causes of serious social and environmental problems. By doing business in more responsible ways, companies can have a more meaningful and lasting impact on society. Not only that, but if they attract positive attention from consumers and increase their profits because of their actions they will inspire other companies to do the same. That's the only way we can really fix society.

**John:** I disagree with Sarah. While those are very good points, I think that companies should focus on charitable giving and philanthropy. Charitable giving can provide immediate relief to those in need and contribute to the overall well-being of society right away. It could take years or decades for business changes to have a positive impact on society, and most people just can't wait that long. For instance, donating money to a school can help students learn more effectively almost immediately.



## Topic 11:

Your professor is teaching a class on business management. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should

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

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

**Professor:** Today, we're going to talk about the benefits and drawbacks of remote work. Many companies have implemented remote work policies in the past few years, and many others are considering joining them. Given that this represents a major change in the way we work and interact with each other, companies must carefully consider all relevant details before making a decision. What do you think? Is remote work beneficial, or do you think it's a bad idea?

**Sara:** I think remote work is a very positive trend. When we work from home, we spend commuting and we have more flexible schedules. Plus, many people find that they are more productive when working from home. Some people say this is because they aren't distracted by their coworkers, while others suggest it's because their energy isn't drained during a long and bothersome commute.

**Michael:** While I can see the benefits of remote work, I don't think it should become the new normal. There's something to be said for the atmosphere that comes from being in the same physical space as your colleagues. I also think that remote work can make it harder to build relationships and collaborate effectively. This means it might limit our chances to earn promotions and raises. And what about people who don't have enough room for a home office? They'll suffer if this trend continues.



## Topic 12:

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should:

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Over the next few weeks, we're going to talk about recent trends in education. Specifically, we'll discuss how many universities have started letting students take classes from home instead of taking them in person on campus. I want to know what you think about this issue, so here's a quick question for the discussion board: "What do you think is the most significant impact of online classes? Why do you think it has this impact?"

**Jack:** The main thing is that online classes make education more accessible. For one, they help reduce commuting time and costs and give students more flexibility in their schedules. Plus, online learning can be more accessible for students who have disabilities or live far away from campus. Traditionally, high costs have prevented many people from pursuing an education, but thanks to online classes cost is less of a problem.

**Emily:** I think that online classes cause people to learn less than before. There's something to be said for the energy and engagement that comes from being in the same physical space as your classmates and instructor. Moreover, when we take classes in person it is easier to build relationships and collaborate. We learn just as much from personal connections as we do from our actual lectures and textbooks.





### Topic 13:

Your professor is teaching a class on sociology. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Lately we've talked a lot about the impact of technology on our lives. With the prevalence of smartphones and other devices, we're more connected than ever, but some people are distressed by this trend. We'll discuss this in our next class, but before we do I'd like to hear your thoughts on the issue. Overall, do devices like smartphones have a positive impact on the way we communicate? Or a negative one?

**Rachel:** Personally, I think this sort of technology has had a negative impact on our ability to communicate face-to-face. People are too reliant on text messages, social media, and things like that, which can lead to a lack of nuance and depth in our interactions. It's harder to read body language and tone of voice over text, and that can result in misunderstandings and miscommunications. I think that if people want to become effective communicators, they should talk to people in person.

**Mike:** While I agree that it can sometimes be challenging to communicate in person, I also think modern technology has its benefits. Smartphones make it possible for us to stay connected with acquaintances and loved ones who are far away, and social networks provide a platform for introverted people to express themselves in ways that they may not be able to do in person. Accordingly, I think smartphones are mostly beneficial.



### Topic 14:

Your professor is teaching a class on education. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** In next week's class we'll talk about different approaches to education. You know, not everyone agrees about the best way for young people to gain knowledge and learn new skills. Let's prepare by discussing whether it's better for students to take classes with a lot of discussions or classes mainly focused on lectures. What do you think?

**Rachel:** I prefer classes that have a lot of discussions. I just learn better when I'm actively engaged with academic material and can exchange ideas with my classmates. When I have the opportunity to get immediate feedback, I can understand things more deeply. I also benefit from hearing about different perspectives and new ways of thinking about challenging topics. Additionally, discussions help me retain the information better since they're more interactive and memorable.

**Mike:** I see your point, Sarah, but I prefer lectures. I like being able to listen to an expert explain a topic and really get into it. With lectures, there's usually a clear structure and a set agenda, which can help me stay focused and organized. I also appreciate being able to take notes and study at my own pace. I can't do those things if I have to engage in a discussion. Not only that, but discussions can sometimes get off track or become too argumentative, which can take away from the learning experience.



### Topic 15:

Your professor is teaching a class on marketing. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response, you should:

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

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.

**Professor:** Hello class! Next week we will be discussing the impact of social media influencers on consumer behavior. With the rise of social media platforms like Instagram and YouTube, we've seen the emergence of a new type of celebrity: the social media influencer. These influencers have large followings and can sway consumer behavior by endorsing products or services. What are your thoughts on this?

**Jack:** I think social media influencers have a significant impact. When young people start admiring these influencers and trust their recommendations, they are more likely to buy products or services that they endorse. However, I also think there are some concerns about the authenticity of these endorsements, as some influencers may promote products that they don't actually use or believe in.

**Emily:** I'm not convinced that social media influencers have a significant impact on consumer behavior. While they may have large followings, most people are smart enough to make their own purchasing decisions based on their needs and preferences. Plus, there are so many influencers out there promoting different products that it can be hard to know who to trust.



## 335 Independent Writing Task practice questions

سوالاتی که به رنگ صورتی مشخص شده است سوالات جدید تر می باشد. سوالات قرمز بر اساس تجربه برای زبان آموزان چالش برانگیز بوده است.

سوالات آبی کم رنگ نیز از آزمون های تی پی او جمع آوری شده است.

سوالات خاکستری انتهای فایل هم تایپیک های قدیمی تر می باشد.

**Dark Blue> Topics in the recent years**

**Light Blue> TPO Topics**

**Red> Challenging Topics**

**Pink> New Topics**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <p>I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?<br/>The government should spend more money on improving access to the Internet than on public transportation.</p> <p>II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?<br/>Telephone has greater influence on people's lives than television has.</p> <p>III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?<br/>Most businesspeople are motivated only by the desire for more money.</p> <p>IV. You have long been friends with someone. If they do something that you don't like, should you still be friends with him or her?</p> <p>V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?<br/>Nowadays, people are too obsessed with buying or acquiring material things such as expensive clothes or cars because, they think that people around them will judge them based on what they possess.</p> <p>VI. For the students (aged 5-10), is it better to take a break for every one hour of instruction or let them focus on lessons for a longer period of time?</p> |
|----------|--|

- VII. Some people believe because the consumption of sugar and salt is increasing government should increase taxes and use taxes in healthcare. Others believe that government should not increase taxes for food whether it is healthy or not
- VIII. Luck plays the most important role in people's success. Do you agree or disagree?
- IX. People nowadays tend to buy more products and travel more. To have a more sustainable environment, it is good to reduce their consumption. Do you agree or disagree?
- X. Do you agree or disagree?  
Communication with professors and other students by a computer offers better advantages than traditional classes on campus college.

- 2
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Students who keep their rooms neat and organized will be more likely to succeed than students who do not.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Sports teach people lessons about life.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Improving schools is the most important factor in the successful development of a country.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? It is better to relax through watching a film and reading a book than doing physical exercises?
  - V. Which of the following is the most effective way for parents to get children (aged 3-6) ready for the start of the school?
    - a. Providing appropriate books for children to learn how to read
    - b. Reading books aloud for children
    - c. Improving children's communication skill by engaging in conversation with adults
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
All university students should be required to take at least one class that teaches the culture of a country other than their own.

- 3
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Advertising is the most important cause of unhealthy eating habits.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Young people should try several different jobs before they take a long-term career.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Newspapers and magazines are the best ways to learn about a foreign country.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is more important for students to understand ideas and concepts than it is for them to learn facts.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Drivers have to pay a fee for driving in busy city streets when there is a great amount of traffic.
  - VI. The government wants to invest money to develop open space. Do you think it is better to build a park to provide entertainment for everyone, or to build a sports ground for a high school without a sports field?

- 4
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
A job with more vacation time but a low salary is better than a job with a high salary but less vacation time.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
To remain happy and optimistic when you fail is more important than achieving success.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The best way to improve the quality of education in a country is to increase teachers' salaries.
  - IV. Nowadays, many movies or films are based on books. Some people prefer to read the original book before they watch the movie, other prefer to watch the movie before reading the book. Which one do you prefer?
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is better to stop reading and listening to the news for a period of a few days or weeks.
  - VI. Some people think that we should not limit the time students (6-12-year-old) spend on technology products. Others think that because technology products are harmful, they should be limited to less than one hour. Which do you prefer, why?



- 5
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Professional athletes, such as football and basketball players, do not deserve the high salaries that they are paid.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Younger school children (aged five to ten) should be required to study art and music in addition to math, science, history and language.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? People will spend less time cooking and preparing food in twenty years.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? Rather than help children with their schoolwork, parents should encourage their children do their work independently.
  - V. Which one of the following do you prefer to do in order to find a successful job?
    - a. Asking the opinions of others (real-life and online friends)
    - b. Sending letters to the company
    - c. Looking for information on the internet or advertisements in the newspaper
  - VI. Which of the following do you think would be the most effective way that a teacher can use to make students more interested in classes?
    - Using more technological ways
    - Asking students to work in groups or teams
    - Explaining how the lessons have a connection to real-world

- 6
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students should not take part-time jobs while they are studying in universities.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Movies and TV programs made in one's own country are more interesting than those made in other countries.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Being creative, rather than planning carefully, helps people come up with the best solution to a problem.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? The way people dress is a good indication of his or her personality or character.
  - V. A company wants to use money to help employees work better. One way is to improve the technology equipment (computers, printers) used by employees and improve efficiency. Another way is to redesign the space to make the working environment more comfortable and have more meeting rooms for discussion. Which way do you recommend? Why?
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Primary school teachers should not give children (aged 5-10) assignments for more than 30 minutes, because there are enough lessons to learn in regular school classes.

- 7
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents should allow children to make their own choices rather than determine their children's future for them.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Only movies that can teach us something about real life are worth watching.
  - III. Sometimes we are assigned to work in a group on a project. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A group will be helped more by a person who will be willing to do what other group members want than by a person who often strongly insists that things should be done in a way that is different from what the group wants to do.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? If you do not make sure other people (especially influential people or your employers) know about your strengths and accomplishments, you will never get successful in life.
  - V. As a new teaching method, professors record a video (lecture) in advance for students to learn, and class time is used to answer questions, and have discussions. Do you think this is an effective way and why?
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important goal of education is to teach people how to educate themselves.

- 8
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Children should only study or play and don't have to do household chores.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is more important for the government to spend money on art museums and concert halls than on recreational facilities such as swimming pools and playgrounds.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is better to take a secure job with a low pay than to take a job with a high pay but is easy to lose.
  - IV. Your friend has the opportunity to choose either one of two types of majors (fields of study), which one of the following two majors do you think is a better choice, and why?  
  
A major that would allow him to finish years of study and get a degree sooner (so that he would begin to work full-time quickly). Or  
  
A major that requires many years of study that would provide him with more employment opportunities and offers in the future. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - V. Which one can make friendship stronger?  
Having a good time with your friend (Enjoy good time)  
Solving your problem with him or her (talk about problem)  
Supporting each other
  - VI. Some people prefer to go and visit the tourist attractions where there are many people. Others like the ones with fewer people. Which one do you prefer?

- 9
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In the busy and crowded world today, we should not expect people to be polite to each other.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It was easier to achieve success in the past than it is today.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Movies and televisions should always show audience that good people are rewarded and bad people are punished.
  - IV. Students of a university have a long break between university semesters; the university requires all students to do one of the following for one month during the break:
    - Students must take a course on the subject that has no direct connection to their majors of study (For example, a student majoring in engineering may take course in fine arts or social science.)
    - Students must volunteer to work in the university's city or their hometowns to improve some aspects of life of the city or their own town. (For example, students may help local primary school children with their homework.)Which one do you think is more beneficial for students in their university? Why? Give detailed examples and reasons. Use your OWN words, do NOT use memorized examples.
  - V. Imagine that you are going to visit a new city, which one of the following ways do you think is the best way to know the city in a short time?
    - Visiting historic sites
    - Going to shops and markets
    - Enjoying going to restaurants and spending time in café
  - VI. An elementary school intends to extend the science time for children aged 5-11 and reduce music and art time? What is your opinion?

- 10
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is often not a good idea to move to a new city or a new country because you will lose old friends.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
To achieve successful development of a country, a government should spend more money on young children's education rather than on universities.
  - III. You are helping to select a leader for a student organization or a group. Do you think a person's honesty is the most important characteristic for being a leader?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is better to hold a big party and invite many people to come than a small party where only a few close friends and family members are invited.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree? People who always criticize others cannot be a member of a group.
  - VI. Except for doing homework, parents should limit the use of electronic devices such as computers and mobile phones for children under the age of 13. Do you agree or disagree?

- 11
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It's better to have rules about the type of clothing that people wear at schools or in their workplace.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People should buy things that are made in their own country, even if the price of these products is higher than that of the products made in other countries.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The food we ate in the past was healthier than the food we eat today.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Visiting museums is the best way to learn about a country.
  - V. Your school wants to improve the quality of students' life in the dormitory. Which one of the following do you think the school should build in dorms?
    - A quiet study area (A quiet place for study)
    - Exercise room for students to maintain physical health
    - Room for entertainment (like watching movies)
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In universities, people tend to be concerned more about the career prospect of the subjects they learn. Some people propose that students should learn subjects with fast job growth, including science, technology, and engineering even if they are interested in other subjects.

12

- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Parents do not understand their children as well as parents did 50 years ago.
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People would be happier with fewer possessions.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People who move out of their native villages or towns are more successful and happier than people who stay in their native villages or towns.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree? It is better to travel abroad to visit different countries when you are younger rather than when you are older.
- V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Professors should prohibit the use of devices that can connect to the internet in class.
- VI. If you want to choose a purpose, which one do you choose?  
Helping other people  
Enhancing time management  
Improving physical well-being and eating healthy food



- 13
- I. Do you agree with the following statement? The government should support scientific research even if there's no practical use.
  - II. Do you agree with the following statement? In order to succeed, you should be more like others than be different from everyone else?
  - III. Do you agree or disagree? People nowadays are more willing to help other people (giving food or clothing) than in the past.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The environmental issue is too complex to be handled by the individual.
  - V. A university recognized first-year students have poor study skills in its university. Some in the university believe the best way to address this is to ask all first-year students have to pass course on study skills. Others don't agree with this requirement. What is your opinion?
  - VI. Some modern agriculture methods damage the environment. People think providing more food for the growing world population is more important than protecting the environment. Do you agree with this view?

- 14
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In a team, those who do not accept others' criticism cannot succeed.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Children should only play sports for fun, not in competitions or contests.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
All school teachers should be required to take courses every five years to update their knowledge.
  - IV. When you are assigned an important presentation for work or school, do you prefer to work on it right away so that you can work on it a little bit every day, or wait until you have a good idea about the presentation?
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Governments should spend more money in support of the arts than in support of athletics such as state-sponsored Olympic teams.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Television advertising directed toward young children (aged two to five) should not be allowed.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- 15
- I. Do you agree with the following statement? All high school students should take a course in basic economics.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People holding different views cannot achieve success as a team.
  - III. Some people have ambitious dreams and keep following them, but other people always focus on realistic goals and try to achieve them. Which do you think is better?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Is it easier to become educated today than it was in the past?
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A teacher's ability to relate well with students is more important than excellent knowledge of the subject being taught.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students are more influenced by their teachers than by their friends.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- 16
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
To solve present and future problems, it is necessary to understand the past.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
If parents want their children to do well at school, they should limit the time their children spend on watching TV.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Printed books have had greater effects on society than televisions.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Young people nowadays do not respect their teachers as much as they did in the past.
  - V. When you give money to charitable organizations, do you prefer to choose how the donation will be used (for example, donate money to be spent on food or service or advertisement for organizations) or leave the decision to the organizations?
  - VI. Now children do not behave as well as the children did in the past. Which one of the following measures do you think can help children (age 5~10) behave better?
    - A. Control the time they spend on TV or movie
    - B. Take more time to chat with children
    - C. Monitor the interaction between children and their peers

- 17
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
People can solve important problems by themselves or with the help from their family members so there's no need for the government to help them.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People should have hobbies and do physical activities that are very different from their own work.
  - III. Imagine that a professor requires students to learn as much as possible about a subject in a short period of time. Is it better for the professor to require students to work together in a group or is it better to require students to work alone?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
If we can't say anything nice about someone, then we should not say anything about this person.
  - V. Nowadays, people are busy with many things. If you were given a short period of time, what would you choose?
    - Learn to play a new sport you never played
    - Learn to cook food in a different way
    - Learn to do some hand-made work like clothes
  - VI. Some companies have decided not to allow employees to discuss business by sending emails or messages on weekends. Some people believe that this policy is great, others believe that this policy will discourage employees. What is your opinion and why?

- 18
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Scientists should be responsible for the negative impacts of their discoveries
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Improving schools is the most important factor in the successful development of a country?
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Working at home using computers or telephones is better than working in the office.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? People can solve important problems by themselves or by their families; thus, it is almost not necessary to refer to the government.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree? In the modern era, parents learn from children more than children learn from parents.
  - VI. Some people think historical sites should be open to the general public, but others think historical sites should only be open to experts and researchers. Which one do you think is better?

- 19
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
If you need to discuss upsetting or controversial problems with others, using email/text messaging is better than using telephone/voice-messaging.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People who have learned many different skills are more likely to succeed than those who focus on learning only one skill.
  - III. Which one do you prefer? Students in high school should learn by sitting there listening to the teacher while taking notes or communicating and sharing ideas with class.
  - IV. After having a presentation in class, you want to evaluate it. Which of the following do you think would be better for you?
    - watch the recording by yourself
    - invite other attenders to discuss and give opinions
  - V. **If you are required to give feedback about your classmates/colleagues (work or performance), would you like to give positive comments or negative comments first?**
  - VI. Is it as important for older people to learn and study new things as it is for young people?

- 20
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The personal and work-related challenges that young people face today are not any different from the challenges their parents and grandparents faced when they were young.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
When working on a project, it's better for classmates or colleagues to communicate face to face than send emails.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement.  
Nowadays more and more people spend too much money on their pets (dogs, cats and others), although there are better uses for this money.
  - IV. University students are often encouraged to study fields in which significant job growth (a large increase in job opportunities) is expected; these fields currently include science, technology, engineering, and math, do you believe students should consider studying fields related to these subjects even if they are more interested in other subjects? Why or why not?
  - V. One of the most challenging problems in modern society is to have the most up-to-date skills for workplace. For solving this, government decides to give all adults over the age of 25 a training course to learn new skills. Do you think it is an effective way for government to spend its money?
  - VI. Are governments doing well in educating people to pay attention to the importance of the food nutrition and healthy eating?



- 21
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In the modern world, we should never be impolite to another person.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Telephone has had greater effects on people's lives than television.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People care more about public recognition than about money. Even if no more money is given, public recognition can still make people work harder.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? It is better to use your own knowledge and experience to solve problems than to ask other people for advice.
  - V. If you are going to graduate from the university and have to choose the final course, which professor will you choose; the one whose courses you used to sign up for or the one you have never learned from before?
  - VI. Taking a lot of time to make an important decision is viewed as a bad quality for a person to have. But now it's considered as a good quality of a person. Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

- 22
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Successful leaders should make others part of the decision-making process.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Colleges or Universities should offer more courses to prepare students for the future before they start working.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Young people today are less dependent on their parents than in the past.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? It is easier for parents to raise children than it was 50 years ago.
  - V. When parents are too busy to spend time with their children, they could choose to send their children to a childcare center where many children are taken care of together; or they could send their children to an individual caregiver. Which one is better?
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? All university students should be required to take history courses no matter what field they study in.

- 23
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Compared with people who live in urban areas, the people who live in rural areas can take better care of their families.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The advice from the grandparents is of no use to their grandchildren because the world has changed a lot over the past 50 years.
  - III. Some teenagers take part in different kinds of activities such as musical classes, sports classes and so on, but others only focus on one activity which is important to them. Which idea do you support?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
    - a. Always telling the truth is the most important consideration in any relationship between people.
    - b. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
When people spend a lot of time watching sports on television or following their favorite team, does it have negative effects on their lives?
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
These days, children spend more time on doing homework or participating in organized activities related to school or sports. However, they should be given more time to do whatever they want.

- 24
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Among all the characters that a successful person has, communication skill is the most important.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is easier for people to become well-educated now than in the past.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree? Asking children to work in small groups is the best way to teach young children.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It's better to complete a project and then start another one than to do several things at the same time.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement.  
It is better to make friends with intelligent people than with the people who have a good sense of humor.
  - VI. Do you prefer watching TV programs for knowledge or just for entertainment?

- 25
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents should encourage their children to do their homework independently rather than help them to do it.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Two people can still become good friends if one of them has more money than the other one does.
  - III. Some people think university professors should spend more time doing research while others think they should spend more time educating students. What is your view?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree: young people should try many different kinds of jobs or career before they decide the long-term career of their life.
  - V. If people want to contribute to the society, which of the following is the best way?
    - riding bicycle or walking on foot
    - recycling the waste
    - buying local organic food
  - VI. Do you agree that it is better to work for the business owned by someone else than to work for the business of one's own family?

- 26
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
One of the characteristics of successful leaders is the sense of responsibility for accepting their mistakes.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Parents should allow children to make mistakes and let them learn from their own mistakes.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The most important problems in today's world will be solved in our lifetime.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? People gain more happiness from their jobs than their social life.
  - V. The government can take a variety of actions to help protect the environment. Which one of the following do you think is the most important for the nation's government to take to protect the environment?
    - Fund research to develop environmentally friendly energy sources such as solar and wind energy.
    - Preserve the natural places like forests and protect the animals that live there
    - Enforce laws to prevent the pollution of air and water by large companies
  - VI. If you are going to graduate from the university and have to choose the final course, which professor will you choose: the one whose courses you used to sign up for or the one you have never learned from before?

- 27
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement. Movies and television have more negative effects than positive effects on the way young people behave.
  - II. Which kind of universities do you prefer, universities whose graduates can find good jobs or universities where there are famous professors?
  - III. Do you agree or disagree? One can learn a lot about a person from the books and movies that he likes.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Although science and technology will continue to improve, the most significant improvement for the quality of people's lives have already taken place.
  - V. Which one is the most important factor to help you work productively:
    - A. Having an environment free of noise and distractions;
    - B. Knowing that you will receive a reward;
    - C. Doing something you are interested in.
  - VI. The university has provided students who are going to enter university with two summer vocation programs. Which one do you think is better for students?
    - Take some college courses in advance e.g. some courses that are related to students' major.
    - Visit some history museums or historical relics

- 28
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should spend more money on improving facilities (e.g. labs and general equipment) than on hiring famous professors.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to know what is happening around the world, even if it does not affect your personal lives.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better for government to spend money on building modern housing than on preserving historic or traditional buildings and homes.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree? Internet should be like other services such as roads, and government should provide it to the public with no cost.
  - V. If you were the leader of the country, what kind of policy would you use to succeed?
    - Creating job for unemployed people
    - Develop agriculture and reduce food prices
    - Develop Housing
  - VI. Some people say people taking risks can be more successful than people who are careful and cautious. What is your opinion? Please give specific details and examples in your answer.



- 29
- I. Some people like to buy a piece of technological device as soon as it is available in the market. Other people prefer to buy it after it has been adopted by many people. Which do you prefer?
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is more important to choose friends that can have fun with you than to choose friends that will help you when you need them.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
If a student is having difficulty studying a course, it is better for the student to turn to a friend who is good at this course than to turn to his/her teacher for help.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is more important to read or watch news presented by people whose views are different from your own than it is to read or watch news presented by those whose views are similar to your own. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer
  - V. **Do you agree or disagree that job has greater effect on your overall happiness than social life does?**
  - VI. When parents cannot afford time to accompany their children, they could choose to send their children to child-care center where many children are cared together, or they could send their children to an individual caregiver. Which one is better?

- 30
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The most important investment for a company is to spend money to improve the work skills of its employees.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Patience is usually not a good strategy. We should take action now rather than later.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Young people should choose a job that is similar to what their parents did.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is important to read or watch news presented by people with different views than people by similar views.
  - V. In order to stay healthy, many people choose to exercise. Some people tend to exercise individually such as running and riding bicycles, etc. Some people tend to participate in group exercises such as team sports. Which one do you prefer and why?
  - VI. For schools, assessing teachers' teaching efficiency is a very important issue. But is it better for other teachers to assess or let students assess teachers?

- 31
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In order to succeed in doing a new job, the ability to adapt oneself to the new environment is more important than the excellent knowledge of this job.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is much easier for people to achieve success without their family members' help now than in the past.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The competition between friends always has negative effect.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Children rely too much on the technology, like computers, smart phones, video games for fun and entertainment. Playing simpler toys or playing outside with friends would be better for children's development.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is the best way for teachers to help students become more interested in a subject by explaining how this subject can help students live better outside the school.
  - VI. If you need to take a course, which professor's course would you like to take?
    - a professor who was voted the most popular
    - a professor who has just won an award for an outstanding research

- 32
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: it is impossible to be completely honest with your friend.
  - II. Which one of the following would you change to improve your health? 1. The kind of food you eat 2. The amount of exercise 3. The amount of stress
  - III. Which do you prefer with the same rate of pay; an interesting and challenging job with less vacation or a job with more vacation time but less fun?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Your job has more effect on your happiness than your social life does.
  - V. Some people like to buy and eat their meals at restaurants frequently while others like to do this at home. Which do you prefer? Why?
  - VI. Which one do you think is the most important factor for a student to succeed at college or university?
    - Tutors in university.
    - The encouragement from family and friends.
    - High-quality education from high school.

- 33
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Governments and private companies should share their scientific discoveries with the rest of the world.
  - II. Some people like to work at home, while others prefer to work in the office. Which do you prefer and why?
  - III. People in communities can make decisions in order to protect and improve the natural environment. Which one is the most useful? A. plant trees and create parks B. persuade local shops to stop providing plastic bags to customers C. increase access to public transportation to reduce the number of automobiles on local roads
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Leadership comes naturally. One cannot learn how to develop it.
  - V. Some people think the media including newspapers, televisions, radio, and internet sources are less concerned about the accuracy of news. They think the information from the media is becoming incorrect. Do you agree with this opinion or not and explain why? Include examples and specific reasons.
  - VI. Some people prefer to focus on ambitious dreams while others think realistic goals are more important. Which do you prefer and why?

- 34
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Young people now are more likely to help others than young people were in the past.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Governments should focus their budgets more on environmental protection than on economic development.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is not necessary for university students to attend classes as long as they can pass their examinations.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Companies should pay for employees to get a university degree.
  - V. Do you agree that people should always participate in the activities that they are good at or talented in?
  - VI. The growing number of overweight people is putting a strain on health care system in an effort to deal with the health issues involved. Some people think that the best way to deal with this problem is to introduce more physical education lessons in the school curriculum. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- 35
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is important for governments to protect wild animals and wilderness areas for the future generations.
  
  - II. Which of the following do you think contribute most to an enjoyable vacation: 1. good food 2. good location 3. good friends to travel with. Select one and give your reasons.
  
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Students are more interested in politics now than they were in the past.
  
  - IV. Students in a university club want to help others, but they can only choose one project a year, which one of the following is the best?
    - help those students in a nearby primary school with reading and mathematics
    - help people who cannot afford to build or rent a home to build a house
    - visit and assist elderly people with daily tasks
  
  - V. Do you agree or disagree?  
**It is difficult for teachers to be both popular (liked by students) and effective in helping students in learning.**  
**Give your reasons and specific examples.**
  
  - VI. At work or school, you might encounter a problem that requires creativity -for example, you are given a task to complete that is very different from other tasks you do. In work or school situation that requires you to think creatively, would you prefer to work alone or with others? Why?

- 36
- I. Which way do you think is the best for a student to make new friends?
    - joining a sports team
    - participating in community activities
    - Traveling
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Nowadays it is easier to maintain good health than in the past.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Students can get as many benefits from organization or club activities as they can get from their academic studies.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
After high school, students should have at least one year to work or travel. It's better than attending university straight away.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree?  
Nowadays it is not important for people to have regular family meals together.
  - VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It's a waste of money for Government to fund space travel or space exploration.  
Give specific examples and details to support your answer.



- 37
- I. Do you agree or disagree?  
It is more important for students to do reading by themselves (based on their own interests) than to read what their teachers assign.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
One quality that a successful leader must have is to make decisions quickly; when a leader takes too much time to make decisions, he will be seen as ineffective to the people he leads.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree: Should high-school students be required to study many different subjects at the same time or they should study only three or four subjects at a time?
  - IV. In times of an economic crisis, in which area should governments reduce their spending?
    - Arts
    - Scientific research
    - Parks and public gardens
  - V. The government wants to fund the following to improve children's education:
    - hire more teachers to teach in a small class
    - provide preschool education before kindergarten
    - provide some training courses so that teachers can be more professional
  - vi. Which one do you think is the most important? Use specific examples and reasons to support your answer.
  - vii. Nowadays many high schools and universities require students to work on projects in groups, and all members of the group receive the same grade (mark) on the project. Do you agree or disagree that giving every member of a group the same grade is a good way to evaluate students? Use specific examples and reasons to support your answer. Be sure to use your own words. Do not use memorized examples.

- 38
- I. Some people believe that video games could inspire young students' interest and make their study more efficient rather than distract them and be a waste of time, so young students should be allowed to play video games. Do you agree or disagree?
  - II. Some people think it is the best approach for students to learn if schools start the day at an early time in the morning. But some think the school should start the day at a late time. Which one do you prefer? Use specific reasons and detailed examples to support your answer.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A good leader should spend more time listening to other people's ideas than taking his/her own ideas.
  - IV. Some people think that older children should be required to take care of the younger children. Others think that this should be done by parents or other adults. Which do you prefer?
  - V. **Do you agree or disagree the following statement? The more money a person has, the more he or she should give away to charities.**
  - VI. High school teachers (teachers of students ages 14-18) spend most of class time lecturing (speaking) while the students listen and take notes. Other high school teachers spend most of class time on discussion and projects that students are highly involved in and exchange their ideas. Which of these two approaches do you think is more effective for student learning and why?

- 39
- I. Some companies provide important products or service, but also damage environment. Some people believe that government should require more penalty, higher tax and larger fine of these companies, while others believe there are better ways. Which do you prefer?
  - II. Which one is the most important factor to help you work productively?
    - Having an environment free of noise and distractions
    - Knowing that you will receive a reward
    - Doing something you are interested in
  - III. Should parents help their children with their assignments or let them do their assignments independently?
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Government, instead of individuals, should cover Internet fees.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Universities should require every graduating student to take public speaking courses. Give specific examples and details to support your answer.
  - VI. Many filmmakers make movies based on books. When a movie is produced based on books, some people prefer to read books before watching films, other people choose to watch the movie first. Which one do you think is better? Why?

40

- I. Is it more important for the government to spend money on art and music museums than on facilities like playgrounds, public swimming pool?
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The most important things people learn are from families.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The more money people have, the more they should contribute to charity.
- IV. Some university professors let their students choose their research topics themselves. Some do not. Which one do you think is better? Why?
- V. If you want to recommend a way to reduce living expenses for your friend, which of the following will you choose? Why?
- Find a roommate to share a room
  - Do not buy the latest mobile phone, Buy new technological devices less Frequently
  - Buy cheap foods and cook home (do not often eat outside)
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The most important way to improve the people's health is to clean the environment.

41

I. Imagine that you are in a classroom or a meeting. The teacher or the meeting leader says something incorrect in your opinion, which of the following is the best thing to do?

- Interrupt and correct the mistake right away
- Wait until the class or meeting is over and the people are gone, and then talk to the teacher or meeting leader
- Say nothing

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

II. **Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers were more appreciated and valued by society in the past than they are nowadays.**

**Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

III. Some parents offer their school-age children money for each high grade (mark) they get in school. Do you think this is a good idea?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

IV. Some people believe that when busy parents do not have a lot of time to spend with their children, the best use of that time is to have fun playing games or sports. Others believe that it is best to use that time doing things together that are related to schoolwork. Which of the two approaches do you prefer?

- V. Which one do you think is the most important for high school teacher (age from 15 to 18)?
- the ability to give students advice to plan for their future
  - the ability to find which students need help and provide them with help
  - the ability to encourage students to learn by themselves outside of the classroom
- VI. If there's a way to improve yourself, which one among the three choices you would take?
- take more exercise
  - eat healthy food
  - reduce the amount of stress

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- 42
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The opinions of celebrities, such as famous entertainers and athletes, are more important to younger people than they are to older people.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is important to know about events happening around the world, even if it is unlikely that they will affect your daily life.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Because modern life is very complex, it is essential for young people to have the ability to plan and organize.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Workers are more satisfied when they have many different types of tasks to do during the workday than when they do similar tasks all day long.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In the past, young people depended too much on their parents to make decisions for them; today young people are better able to make decisions about their own lives.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - VI. Do you agree that people easily learn from the friends beside them? Use specific examples and evidences to support your answer.

- 43
- I. Which one of the following values is the most important to share with a young child (5-10 years old)?
    - being helpful
    - Being honest
    - Being well organized
  
  - II. Some young people are free in the evenings or have days off at school, which way can bring them the most benefit?
    - To accumulate work experience by a part-time job or volunteering in a community
    - Learning to play a sport
    - Learning to play a musical instrument
  
  - III. Some people think that success is most important in their life. Others think that it's more important to be happy when they fail. Which idea do you agree with and why?
  
  - IV. **In order to attract more tourists, the government could either improve safety by hiring more police or improve its appearance by repairing old buildings and streets. Which way do you think is more effective?**
  
  - V. At some universities, students take part in making decisions about the issues that affect daily life of everyone on campus such as how many hours the libraries should be open each day or what kinds of food should be served in the cafeteria. But at some universities, experts are hired to make these decisions, and students are almost never involved. Which approach do you prefer and why?
  
  - VI. Which one of the following values is the most important to share with a young child (5-10 years old)?
    - Being helpful
    - Being honest
    - Being well organized



44

- I. At one high school, more of its students than ever before have been caught cheating on their homework assignments. For example, many students have asked other students to provide them with answers for assignments. The school is considering making a change to help decrease the number of students who cheat on homework. Which one of the following actions do you think will be most effective and why?
- asking parents to monitor their children as they do their homework and confirm that their children have not cheated
  - increasing the penalty (punishment) for cheating
  - asking teachers to create homework assignments that will make it more difficult for students to cheat
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children rely too much on the technology, like computers, smart phones, video games for fun and entertainment. Playing simpler toys or playing outside with friends would be better for children's development.
- III. If the government wants to invest in the following three areas, what do you think is the most worthwhile?
- land exploration
  - education
  - health care

**IV. Your friend has the opportunity to choose either one of two types of majors (fields of study), which one of the following two majors do you think is a better choice, and why?**

- A major that would allow him to finish years of study and get a degree sooner (so that he would begin to work full-time quickly). Or
- A major that requires many years of study that would provide him with more employment opportunities and offers in the future. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Be sure to use your own words. Do not memorize some certain examples.

**V. Students aged 13-18 are taught different subjects by different teachers while younger students are taught by only one teacher all day long. Some people suggest it would benefit young students to be taught by different teachers. Do you agree with this view? Why or why not?**

**VI. Some people think that we should keep away from others to improve our relationship, because being away from people reminds us of how important they are. Others think we should always stay with others to have good relationship because we can communicate with them more often. What do you think?**

- 45
- I. A city wants to help teachers of its high school students (ages 14-18) improve their teaching. It is considering two plans:
- Choose a small group of excellent teachers; these teachers will attend a class led by an expert for additional training in how to teach effectively, and they will then come back to their schools and provide that training for other teachers in school.
  - Provide additional training in teaching effectively for high school teachers, using online material that each teacher will study individually.
- II. Do you agree or disagree that it is less effective when we work with those who have a different way of thinking and working?
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The reading students do on their own is as important as, or even more important than the reading assigned by their teachers.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Developing economy is more important than cleaning the environment.
- V. Do you agree or disagree? Physical exercise is more important for older people than young people.
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Scientists should use clean sources instead of polluting sources to generate electricity even if it is expensive.

- 46
- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Television advertising directed towards young children (aged two to five) should not be allowed.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Technology has made children less creative than they were in the past.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Playing computer games is a waste of time. Children should not be allowed to play them.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In today's world, it is more important to work quickly and risk making mistakes than to work slowly and make sure that everything is correct.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
One of the best ways that parents can help their teenage children prepare for adult life is to encourage them to take a part-time job.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
  - VI. Which one do you think is important to long-lasting friendship?
    - help you when you need
    - share same interest and hobby
    - mutual trust

47

- I. Some people say that the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with?  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is better to have broad knowledge of many academic subjects than to specialize in one specific subject.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The extended family (grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles) is less important now than it was in the past.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People benefit more from traveling in their own country than from traveling to foreign countries.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is better for children to choose jobs that are similar to their parents' jobs than to choose jobs that are very different from their parents' jobs.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The ability to maintain friendships with a small number of people over a long period of time is more important for happiness than the ability to make many new friends easily.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

48

- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
If people have the opportunity to get a secure job, they should take it right away rather than wait for a job that would be more satisfying.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Parents today are more involved in their children's education than were parents in the past.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
To improve the quality of education, universities should spend more money on salaries for university professors.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is more enjoyable to have a job where you work only three days a week for long hours than to have a job where you work five days a week for shorter hours.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In order to be well-informed, a person must get information from many different news resources.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Successful people try new things and take risks rather than only doing what they know how to do well.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

49

- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Because the world is changing so quickly, people now are less happy or less satisfied with their lives than people were in the past.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Young people today have no influence on the important decisions that determine the future of society as a whole.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
When teachers assign projects on which students must work together, the students learn much more effectively than when they are asked to work alone on projects.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Educating children is a more difficult task today than it was in the past because they spend so much time on cell phone, online games, and social networking Web site.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
For success in a future job, the ability to relate well to people is more important than studying hard in school.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Teachers should not make their social or political views known to students in the classroom.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

50

- I. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
A person should never make an important decision alone.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- II. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
People learn things better from those at their own level—such as fellow students or co-workers—than from those at a higher level, such as teachers or supervisors.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- III. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
Because people are busy doing so many different things, they do very few things well.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- IV. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In the past it was easier to identify what type of career or job would lead to a secure, successful future.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- V. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
In order to become financially responsible adults, children should learn to manage their own money at young age.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- VI. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide.  
Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.



**Old Topics**

1. Some people think that parents should plan their children's leisure time carefully. Other people believe that children should decide for themselves how to spend their free time. Which idea do you agree with?
2. People should never be satisfied with what they have; they should always want something new or something different. Do you agree or disagree with the statement.
3. Travelling is more important than reading books in order to understand the people and the world. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Use specific reasons to support your answer.
4. After they complete their university studies, some students live in their hometowns, while others live in different towns or cities. Which do you think is better: living in your hometown or living in different towns or cities? Give specific reasons for your answer.
5. Some people learn best when a lesson is presented in an entertaining, enjoyable way. Other people learn best when a lesson is presented in a serious, formal way. Which of these two ways of learning do you prefer? Give reasons to support your answer.
6. Some people say that the best preparation for life is learning to be cooperative. Do others take the opposite view and say that learning to be competitive is the best preparation. Which one you agree with? Explain why.
7. Someone think that playing a game is fun only when you win. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Use specific reasons to support your answer.

8. A research center is going to be established in a university. There is an argument whether to establish an agricultural center or a business one. Which do you think is better? Use specific reasons to support your answer.
9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dissatisfaction leads to progress. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A student's main purpose in getting an education is to earn a lot of money. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
11. When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.
12. Some people say that the best way to raise children is to encourage them to be independent thinkers. Others disagree and say that children need to be taught discipline in order to become successful. Which idea do you agree with? Why?
13. "It's better to make wrong decision than make no decision at all." Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Give reasons or specific examples to explain your answer.
14. 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.
15. Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree?
16. The expression "never, never give up" means to keep trying and never stop working for your goals. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
One should never judge a person by external appearances.
18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A person should never make an important decision alone.
19. A company is going to give some money either to support the arts or to protect the environment. Which do you think the company should choose?
20. Some movies are serious, designed to make the audience think. Other movies are designed primarily to amuse and entertain. Which type of movie do you prefer?
21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Businesses should do anything they can to make a profit.
22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Games are as important for adults as they are for children.
23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Parents or other adult relatives should make important decisions for their teenage (15 to 18-year-old) children.
24. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future.
25. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Boys and girls should attend separate schools.