

**ECCE
Writing
Assessment
Criteria****Content and Development**

- Length and development
- Relevance
- Supporting details
- Reliance on prompt content

Organization and Connection of Ideas

- Smooth flow of ideas
- Cohesion and coherence
- Connection of ideas across paragraphs
- Paragraphing conventions

Linguistic Range and Control

- Accuracy
- Severity of errors
- Use of prompt-specific vocabulary
- Repetition of vocabulary

Communicative Effect

- Address the prompt
- Establish context
- Genre requirements
- Appropriate register

ECCE Writing Samples with Commentary

Nine sample ECCE responses are presented here, along with detailed comments and an approximate score range for each. The following questions are represented in these samples:

Prompt 1 Version A: Writing sample 1

Tomorrow, the city council will vote on whether to build a café and nature museum in the Smithton Forest. The city believes this will allow more people to enjoy this land. Some people disagree with the decision of the council. They say it is best to leave this area wild and untouched. The city has other cafés and museums that people can visit, they say.

Some people think that forests should be left as wild and natural as possible. Others think that forests should include spaces for people to enjoy activities. What do you think? Explain your opinion, giving specific reasons to support your view.

Prompt 1 Version B: Writing samples 3, 7

Tomorrow, the city council will vote on whether to build a café and nature museum in the Smithton Forest. The city believes this will allow more people to enjoy this land. Some people disagree with the decision of the council. They say it is best to leave this area wild and untouched. The city has other cafés and museums that people can visit, they say.

Write a letter to the newspaper explaining what you think of the city council's plan for the land. Do you think building in the forest is a good idea? Why or why not? Begin your letter, "Dear Editor."

Prompt 2 Version A: Writing samples 2, 8

Question: The City Times - No More Textbooks

Greenville High School has announced that starting next year textbooks will no longer be used in the school. Instead, all course materials will be available online only. The school principal, Dr. Ellen Anderson, says that this will help prepare students for a more technologically advanced society. However, some teachers worry that not all students currently have the necessary computer skills to do this.

Write a letter to the principal, Dr. Anderson, explaining what you think of her plan. Do you think this is the right decision for students? Why or why not? Begin your letter, "Dear Dr. Anderson."

Prompt 2 Version B: Writing sample 9

Question: The City Times - No More Textbooks

Greenville High School has announced that starting next year textbooks will no longer be used in the school. Instead, all course materials will be available online only. The school principal, Dr. Ellen Anderson, says that this will help prepare students for a more technologically advanced society. However, some teachers worry that not all students currently have the necessary computer skills to do this.

Many people believe teachers should use technology to keep students interested. Others believe that technology in the classroom creates an opportunity for students to be distracted. What do you think? Explain your opinion, giving specific reasons to support your view.

Prompt 3 Version A: Writing Samples 4, 6

In order to provide its students with a global education, Johnson University has added a new requirement for students in order to graduate. All students must study abroad in a foreign country for one academic term. Some parents and students worry that studying abroad will be too expensive. Many feel that the decision to study abroad should be a choice.

Some students choose to do their college education in a foreign country while others stay in their home country for university. What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying in a foreign country? Give examples to support your opinion.

Prompt 3 Version B: Writing Sample 5

In order to provide its students with a global education, Johnson University has added a new requirement for students in order to graduate. All students must study abroad in a foreign country for one academic term. Some parents and students worry that studying abroad will be too expensive. Many feel that the decision to study abroad should be a choice.

Write a letter to the president of the university, explaining what you think of the decision to make students study abroad for one academic term. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons to support your opinion. Start your letter with "Dear President."

Writing Sample 1

Nature has been a part of human life throughout the existence. It is crucial for the human being, yet some of us don't realize the importance of it. Why do we feel the need to disturb natural environments?

Throughout the years, many animals species and plants have become extinct. It has come to the point where we can say even elephants are endangered animals. Or that India is the only country that has tigers a lions in it's wilderness. But this is still not enough for us to take action.

Voting on weather to build a café in a forest shouldn't even be a question. It is only one more project that gets us a step closer to destroying mother nature. Why do we need a café, that produces waste a toxic gases weekly, instead of trees, plants and animals that help purify the air and the environment itself?

I think that people do not understand the importance of nature and what the consequences would be if we keep destroying it. And I'm not only referring to the plants or trees, its also about the animals from a giant whale, to an "insignificant" (in size) bee. They are all part of a food chain and we can definitely not afford to ruin it just to have a nice cup of coffee.

We are part of this world, a part of this environment, and instead of killing it, we should be the ones saving it and making projects on it's favor. We are the only living creatures in this planet capable of thinking, and we should really start using that gift to save this planet. It's not too late ... yet.

Writing Sample 1 – Commentary

- This response includes some detail and gives reasons in support of a point of view. The writer’s point of view is not conveyed in one or two explicit statements, as one would see from a typical B2 learner, but rather through argumentation, the use of rhetorical devices, and tone. The writer builds up their argument by establishing the importance of nature (saving animals, especially those that are becoming extinct, and the fact that they are a part of the food chain, purifying the air, and the fact that “we are part of this world, a part of this environment”). There is the use of rhetorical devices (“Why do we feel the need to disturb natural environments?”) and clear tone (“Voting on whether to build a café in the forest shouldn’t even be a question.”, “just to have a nice cup of coffee”) which conveys the writer’s position. There are some hiccups—e.g., how do animals help purify the air or environment?—but overall this is a very strong response.
- Many B2 level responses begin paragraphs with words like “First,” “Moreover,” “Finally”. For less confident users of the language, this may not be a bad idea, as it is a good way to impose structure and order on a piece of writing, but it comes with a cost. The beginning of a sentence is the most noticeable part of a sentence, so it’s usually good to put the subject/topic there. When the beginnings of sentences are filled with cohesive devices, the ideas end up in the less visible middle regions of sentences, so the writing is not as strong.

This response is stronger because the beginnings of the sentences contain content words (“Nature,” “Voting on whether to build a café in a forest ...”) rather than cohesive devices. Indeed, the beginning of the second paragraph would have been stronger, too, if it started with “Many animal and plant species”

- The writer uses a mixture of complex, compound, and simple sentences, and they are usually used correctly. This sentence, “Why do we need a café, that produces waste a toxic gases, weekly, instead of trees, plants and animals that help purify the air and the environment itself,” even has two relative clauses! The only major grammatical problem that stands out is the writer’s use of “a” (e.g., “tigers a lions,” and “waste a toxic gases”), in which the writer probably meant “and.”

The language used in this essay is idiomatic and natural sounding (“It has come to the point where ... ,” “a step closer”). The writer even uses quotation marks around the word “insignificant” to indicate that they are not using the word in the usual sense. The writer knows that even though a bee may be small in size, it is still significant in the ecosystem. This shows that the writer is able to express finer shades of meaning, more characteristic of someone at the C levels on the CEFR.

- There are two rhetorical questions (“Why do we ... ?”). The last paragraph also uses the same construction twice (“We are ... , we should ...”). In this case it was used imperfectly, as the two sentences could be made more parallel. Still, one can see that the repetition helped to amplify the argument and the rhetorical effect.

► Writing Sample 1 is an example of a High Pass (840-1000) writing performance.

Writing Sample 2

Dear Dr. Anderson,

I am an ordinary reader of the City Times newspaper and I was simply delighted with joy to read the article on no more Textbooks at Greenwille High School which was published in last week's issue of the newspaper. Since I am a deeply concerned teenager I would very much like to pinpoint my points of view regarding that issue of major importance as thoroughly as possible.

First and foremost, I consider the school authorities along with the municipal administration responsible to a certain extent for the way everything evolves. They should take immediate action and effective measures in order to help the students. For instance, more teachers with computer skills could be hired and could be placed in significant positions within the school. Informative seminars would also be of much benefit to all the children who are not involved in technology.

In addition to this, I believe that there is no right choice. Children must have technological skills as well as the ability to read books. Lots of people, especially the youths, do not fully comprehend the seriousness of such a crucial situation. They need to be informed through leaflets or hand-outs that depict and describe in the best possible way the consequences of a bad education. Only then will they begin to realize that their participation in a well intended "compartition" is vital and can make a difference. The school's society needs also their opinion in that topic since they will be responsible citizens.

Nonetheless, there are some students—fortunately, a minority who do not realize, after the informative seminars; neither the size of the problematic condition nor its influence. They prefer to stay indifferent and let things remain as they are. Their attitude is by far incorrect and must be altered through the rest's conscious efforts.

Last but not least, I would very much like to immensely thank you for not leaving my personal views out of consideration. I am really looking forward to hearing from you through another eye-catching article in the City Times. Any effort in favor of the students good is worthwhile. I do hope things will improve and turn out well for your school's benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Agda

Writing Sample 2 – Commentary

- The writer is able to express complex ideas such as “children must have technological skills as well as the ability to read books.” This shows that the writer has some understanding of the importance of having both types of skills instead of just choosing one skill over another. However, the sentences and paragraph that follow seem to meander away from the topic to something more general instead of explaining why having these two skills are necessary.
- A typical B2 writer begins their paragraphs with words like “First,” “Moreover,” and “Finally.” This response is more sophisticated, using more phrasal linking devices. Nevertheless, beginning each body paragraph with a linking device plus a comma can feel quite repetitive. Research also indicates that the use of lexical cohesive devices actually decreases as people move further up the ability scale and learn to use other tools for achieving cohesion. Thus, the writer should try to vary the sentence structure to make the response more interesting.
- The writer uses a lot of adverbial (“Since I am deeply concerned,” and “... in order to help the students”) and adjectival clauses (“... which was published ... ,” and “... who are not involved in technology”) and they are mainly well-controlled. The writer uses various sentence structures and has a broad range of vocabulary words (“school authorities,” “municipal administration,” “depict,” “evolves,” “delighted with joy,” and “not involved in technology”). The writer even uses inversion (“only then”) as a rhetorical effect to give emphasis in their writing.
- “I consider the school authorities ... responsible to a certain extent for the way everything evolves. They should take immediate action” is inappropriate because in writing letters we do not refer to the reader in the third person, as if we were talking about someone else. The language in those lines is more appropriate for an essay, which is written for a non-specific, general reader. The sentence “I believe there is no right choice” is also more characteristic of expository writing, rather than in a communication trying to convince the reader of one point of view.

Overall, this response is quite successful, but learners at the B level and higher on the CEFR need to be aware of genre and audience, and this awareness needs to be reflected in their writing. Make sure your students think about the ways writing a letter and writing an essay are different.

- ▶ Writing Sample 2 is an example of a High Pass (840-1000) writing performance.

Writing Sample 3

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my opinion about what is the city council going to do to our city's forest. I think that it would be distusting to destroy a forest for a building.

First of all our town don't have a lot of forests. Maybe two or three, and as it's mentioned in the article our city has a lot of caffes and museums. So why do we have to destroy a beautiful natural place. What will residents from other cities say about our humiliating action? Many tourists but mostly residents like the Smithton forest just like it is, and they would be really disappointed with city council's decision, unless they change their mind.

On the other hand, if city council's members have already decided to build either a café or a museum in the forest and the major has agreed with them, then the best option would be the museum. A reasonable reason is because the city has up to twenty cafes, whereas it only has three or four museums the maximum. Secontly the employees of the museum could introduce visitors to interesting places where are worth it to go and visit them, and also the museum could include a variety of things that are selected form the forest like pieces of diferrent kinds of trees or pieces of insects that only the forest might include etc. Furthermore it would be an economical benefit for our city because I believe that most tourists or even residents would find it interesting. If this museum will be build I will definently go to check it out.

I don't belevie that it's right to destroy natural tourist attraction and I'm sure that many people will dislike it as they are going to do with the museum but at least it will probably be a benefit for our city's economics but also it's tourism.

Writing Sample 3 – Commentary

- The writer’s arguments are reasonably well developed with supporting details such as numbers in support of the argument (“two or three” forests, “twenty cafes,” “three or four museums”). The writer also gives suggestions on what the museum could include (“introduce visitors to interesting places,” “include ... things selected from the forests”), and mentions that it would be an “economical benefit.” Having various types of support makes the writer’s arguments richer.
- There is a good use of inter- and intra-sentence connectors to help with the flow of ideas between and within paragraphs. Inter-sentence linkers include transitional words (“on the other hand”, “secondly”, “furthermore”) and intra-sentence linkers include subordinating (“whereas”, “because”) and coordinating conjunctions (“and also”). The cohesive devices are used mostly correctly. The ideas flow well in general with the writer’s opinion that cafes and museums should not be built, and the writer further gives an opinion on the type of building to be built if one had to be chosen, which was captured by the conditional “on the other hand, if ... then.” The ability to write a multi-part argument (as reflected in the use of the ‘if-’ conditional) makes this stronger than the just-passing responses with the usual reasons for or against an idea.
- The writer has good uses of conditionals (“... they would be really disappointed with city council’s decision, unless they change their mind” and “... if city council’s members have already decided to build either a café or a museum in the forest and the major has agreed with them, the best option would be the museum”). In the first example using “unless,” the writer is showing that it is possible for the council to change their mind which is the goal of the writer as it is clear that the writer does not want the council to build structures in the forest. The “if ... , then” sentence is used in the third paragraph to rationalize building a museum rather than a café if one had to build something. The writer’s use of complex grammatical structures in addition to a range of higher-level words such as “humiliating action” and “worth it” shows that the writer is able to advance rhetorical goals.
- To persuade the reader and to express the writer’s emotion, the writer uses several adjectives to show the mood (“disgusting,” “destroy,” and “beautiful natural”), personal pronouns like “we “ and “our” to build solidarity and common cause with the reader, as well as rhetorical questions (“So why do we have to destroy a beautiful natural place. What will residents from other cities say about our humiliating action?”). As a whole, the writer is able to effectively convey their arguments by using these different types of rhetorical devices to persuade the reader.

► Writing Sample 3 is an example of a Pass (750-835) writing performance.

Writing Sample 4

To start with, as we all know, some students want to study abroad and others prefer to stay as close as possible to their hometown. Well each solution has its advantages and disadvantages.

To begin with the advantages of studying in a foreign country, is that you learn how people live in a specific country. You get to not only learn a different culture but also live it. An other essential thing about studying abroad, you make new friends and you expand your contacts all around the world. Furthermore, living on your own away from your family isn't that easy so you learn how to live on your own and take care of your businesses.

On the other side, there are some disadvantages being in a different country. You have to know at least perfect English so as to improve in your studies. Despite the fact that you meet new friends and you have someone to help you when needed, you don't leave your family help which is a very essential thing when you build your future and not only that, but study as well.

To sum up, I strongly believe that it's in dependance of the student and his personality. If he has a strong personality and he can face some bad consequences of studying away from his hometown, he can study abroad but if not so, I think that we should stay close.

Writing Sample 4 – Commentary

- The ideas in point one were clearer (“learn how people live in a specific country,” “learn a different culture but also live it,” and “learn how to live on your own and take care of your businesses”). In the second point, it is not clear why someone needs to “know at least perfect English so as to improve in your studies.” In addition, the second supporting detail (“Despite the fact ...”) is very confusing; this may be due to the wrong use of the transitional word “despite,” the wrong word choice “leave,” and the lack of context for “build your future ... study as well.” Small transition words like “despite” affect writing quite a bit as they are meant to connect one idea to the next. When the wrong transition is used, the reader has a difficult time trying to understand the relationship between the ideas.
- In the first paragraph the phrase “as we all know” is not needed, as it is not a common fact that everyone is aware of. Writers need to be careful about making generalizations in their writing when using words such as “all,” “every,” and “obviously.” Writers can avoid generalizations by using hedging language (modals [can, possibly], that clauses, introductory verbs). Using hedging language shows that the writer is able to handle complexity and finer shades of meaning which is an ability that individuals at the C level of the Common European Framework of Reference are capable of. Teaching this skill as well as avoiding totalizing language would be worthwhile.
- You may notice that the writer begins each paragraph with a transitional phrase (“to start with,” “to begin with,” “on the other side,” and “to sum up”) to organize the ideas in the essay, and they are sometimes used correctly. It is, however, a bit odd to have two beginnings, “to start with” and “to begin with,” isn’t it?

Using “to start with” at the beginning and “Well” also make the essay sound more like informal, spoken language. Teachers should go over the differences between written and spoken registers.

- The writer has some good vocabulary such as replacing “home country” as mentioned in the prompt with “hometown,” and using words like “culture,” “essential,” and a verbal phrase “take care of” (although there was a mistake in using “businesses” rather than “business”). There is some repetition in vocabulary words such as “hometown,” “essential thing,” “advantages” and “disadvantages” and some confusing word choice in the third paragraph with the word “leave.” In general, the writer has a good range of vocabulary, especially for a B2 level.

► Writing Sample 4 is an example of a Pass (750-835) writing performance.

Writing Sample 5

Dear President,

I have recently read the article in the newspaper about the decision which was made and shows that all students of Johnoson University must study abroad. Personally, I disagree with this decision and I believe that it's better all students to have the opportunity to choose what they want to do.

Firstly, some students will not be able to study abroad because their families will have economic problems. This means that students who have economic problems can't graduate and of course they can't continue in this university. In addition, they will search for another university and the university will lose them from students.

Another big problem is that the students who will not want to go because they don't want to leave their home and their country, they will feel homesick. Moreover, they will want to come back and of course they will not concentrate in their subjects.

All these important problems will happen if you make this decision. I hope you to take my suggestions into account.

Sincerely,

Leonidas

Writing Sample 5 – Commentary

- The writer of this response expresses a point of view (“I disagree with this decision and I believe that it’s better all students to have the opportunity to choose what they want to do”) and is able to give reasons in support of that opinion (“economic problems,” “students who will not want to go because they don’t want to leave their home and their country, they will feel homesick”), providing some detail. The essay is quite short, though, so adding more information to develop the ideas would help to create a richer response.
- The writer is able to connect some of the ideas through the use of transitional words (“firstly,” “another big problem,” “moreover”), which occur at the beginning of sentences. This is fairly typical of learners at the B2 level. Help them improve by teaching them ways of creating cohesion (such as through pronoun use or synonyms) other than using lexical cohesive devices.
- “False friends” or “false cognates” are words in two languages that look or sound similar, but actually have different meanings. The word “economic” is an example of a false friend between Greek and English. In fact, a corpus study shows it’s the highest frequency false friend between the two languages. Instead of using the word “economic,” the writer could use “financial” to describe “problems.” As false friends can mislead learners, it would be helpful for students to review a list of these commonly confused words.
- “Of course” can be an effective rhetorical device to communicate a certain shared perspective between writer and reader. In this case, the repetition of “and of course they” reads more like a phrase lazily used that ends up highlighting the lack of variety in the writer’s sentence structures, and thus weakens its rhetorical effect.

In general, it’s good for writers to make sure that any repetition is intentional and serves a known purpose. Writers will also want to be careful with the language used to indicate degrees of certainty (“of course”).

- ▶ Writing Sample 5 is an example of a Low Pass (650-745) writing performance.

Writing Sample 6

It is widely believed that, studying abroad is the best choice for a student. However, I believe that it would be very difficult not only for a student but also for their parents.

First of all, studying abroad surely would be a new adventure for a student. So, student would have the chance to learn about an other culture e.t.c. Furthermore studying abroad would be very beneficial for students too, because so, they would become more responsible. For instance, if a student leave his/her country and go away from his/her parents, he/she immediately became more responsible than before because there where he/she will go there would be no one who will care about him/her.

On the other hand, studying abroad is very dangerous. I believe that in a foreign country there are many bullies who want to harm foreign students. In addition, studying abroad is not the easiest thing for parents. I believe that it would be too expensive and many parents would not afford it.

All in all, I consider that studying in a foreign country is not as preferable as studying in a home country for students because there are plenty difficulties about it.

Writing Sample 6 – Commentary

- Paragraph 1 indicates the new policy would be difficult for students and their parents, but then dedicates the majority of the response to talking about the positive things associated with that policy, thus creating some dissonance for the reader. The writer is able to support ideas; therefore, this is a B2 level performance, but the response can certainly be improved.
- As previously discussed, the last sentence of the introduction presents the writer’s stance that studying abroad “would be very difficult not only for a student but also for their parents” and the following paragraph starts with the transitional phrase “first of all,” but then talks about the benefits of studying abroad. Thus, “first of all” is misused and causes confusion.

It is possible to use “first of all” correctly here. For example: “First of all, it should be admitted that there are advantages to studying abroad However” Alternately, the writer could use a different cohesive device.

Cohesive devices between and within sentences seem problematic as well, especially in paragraph 2 (“so”, “because so”). This writer would benefit from going over the meaning and use of cohesive devices.

- As the essay is quite short to begin with, repetitive words such as “believe” and “studying abroad” stand out. While repetition may be beneficial in emphasizing points, this does not appear to be intentional on the part of the writer. Ways to vary the language include using synonyms (think, learning in a different country), omitting words if possible (in many cases, “believe” could be taken out), and changing the sentence structure (notice that the writer consistently writes “I believe” and “studying abroad” in the beginning of the sentence). Changing vocabulary can help improve the cohesiveness of an essay.
- With the writer expressing their opinion and then discussing the advantages and disadvantages, the examinee does not seem to understand the purpose of this writing. Furthermore, the misuse of cohesive devices and disorganized ideas (in paragraph 3, why is the idea of money under the controlling idea of safety?) cause confusion for the reader.

▶ Writing Sample 6 is an example of a Low Pass (650-745) writing performance.

Writing Sample 7

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my opinion about the article concerning the decision of the city council to build a café and natural museum in the Smithton Forest. And I believe it is a good idea for various reasons.

First of all, many people from other town will come to see this resort so will increase the income not only in the café and the museum but also the local shops and restaurant. Moreover, it will help the people to learn more things about the natural environment. Furthermore, the people will come into contact more with the natural environment.

On the other hand many people worried because believe that will descript the will environmental, and I believe this point is fault because the museum will build for the people to see the natural environment and not desract this. Moreover the city has many cofe and museums but it is not in the natural environmental

I believe with my point of view you help about the decision to build a cofe and the nature meseum in the natural environmental. I hope I will have helped you with my point of view.

Yours

Theo

Writing Sample 7 – Commentary

- The writer thinks that it is a good idea to build a café and nature museum in the Smithton Forest because it will increase tourism which increases the “income” for the businesses, “people will learn more things about the natural enviromentall,” and “people will came into contact more with the natural environmental.” For these reasons, more elaboration can be made, such as the benefit/result of learning about the natural environment or why/how more people will be in contact with nature.
- The ideas in paragraph 1 and 2 are generally organized in an appropriate and clear manner even though the transitional markers are used mechanically. The subsequent paragraphs are difficult to follow due to the choice of words and grammatical mistakes (“decript the will environmental,” “descrat thise,” “you help about the decision”). It looks like the writer is trying to write a counterargument with refutation, but it was unsuccessful because the meaning was lost in these language errors.
- The first sentence of the letter is impressive with the vocabulary (“express my opinion,” “concerning the decision of the city council”) and grammatical structure, which makes it seem like it was a memorized structure as the rest of the essay has a grammatical mistake in almost every sentence and spelling mistakes/wrong word choices (“resort”, “thise”, “descript”). Comprehension is lost in the third and last paragraph because of these mistakes.

The writer could improve on spelling, especially those words mentioned in the writing prompt (“cofe” and “nuture meseum”), sentence fragments in complex sentences (“so will increase ...” and “because believe”), and the difference between the noun and adjective form of “environment.”

- The writer is aware of the audience, as the letter is addressed to the right person and signed, uses the first person point of view, and establishes context for the reader. The writer uses formal language which is appropriate for this type of writing. However, due to language errors, the third paragraph is difficult to follow, so some communication is lost.

► Writing Sample 7 is near the boundary of Borderline Fail (610-645) and Low Pass (650-745).

Writing Sample 8

"Dear Dr. Anderson"

I read this article about No more longer by used in the school. Which both have advantage and disadvantage. The both opinion have equal valube. Because if all course materials will be availabe they don't need to take their textbooks with themselves.

First of all. The advantage is that with this way they become more dependent. And that will hep them to learn computer And that way students get interested into technology and also getting interested in online course.

The disadvantage is that if not all students have the necessary computer skills. So May they have difficult to study all course online. So with this way may they leave back with study than other students. So if all students have necessary computer skills that is the benifit for them to study online course.

I'm glad to help you if my advice useful for you.

Take care

Basil

Writing Sample 8 – Commentary

- The prompt asks for the writer’s opinion about whether it was the right decision for the principal to make a new policy of putting all course materials online, but the writer does not take a one-sided stance. Instead, the writer states that “both opinion (the principal’s opinion and teachers’ opinion) have equal value” and talks about the advantages and disadvantages of this policy. It is okay to say that both opinions are valuable, but the writer needs to have a clear opinion on this issue and give details to support their argument.

The writer has obviously been taught a construction for writing an advantages and disadvantages essay and misapplied that to writing this letter. It would, thus, be useful to teach students to identify audience, genre, and purpose, and the appropriate development structure to use in light of those rhetorical features.

- There are few grammatically correct sentences in this response. In part, this seems to be due to the general linguistic weakness of the learner. It also appears that periods are being used as a means of buying time for the writer to process the next thought. The writer would benefit from exercises in constructing solid basic sentences, moving up to more complex constructions.
- The basic structure of the response is apparent with the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion. However, the flow between ideas can greatly improve. For example, in the first paragraph, the writer’s opinion is that both the principal’s and teachers’ opinions are equally valuable but then a positive benefit of the policy was mentioned (students don’t need to physically carry their textbooks). It would seem more appropriate to place this benefit in the following paragraph, which focuses on the advantages. In the second paragraph, one of the advantages that the writer mentions is that students “become more dependent. And that will help them to learn computer.” The writer could explain what students would be “dependent” on and what aspect of the computer would students learn more about as “learn computer” is not clear. In the following sentence, there is a logical fallacy, as learning about computers does not necessarily mean that students will “get interested into technology and also getting interested in online course.”

▶ Writing Sample 8 is an example of a Fail (0-605) writing performance.

Writing Sample 9

Nowadays many people believe teachers should use technology to keep students interested and others believe that technology in the classroom creates an opportunity for students to be distracted. I want to express my opinion on this problem. Technology is very useful and beneficial for a school. First of all the lesson will be more interested and students will not be bored. Also, teacher can show them videos, articles and other things about the lesson. However, they will have the opportunity to communicate with other people from all over the world by skype and they can learn different things about their culture, their customs, history and their daily routine. A lesson do noise and distribute the lesson. Finally students have not the opportunity to see live different things about a issue of a lesson so they have not viewpoint about it. To conclude I think that technology is very beneficial and useful for students and can help them to be careful at the time of the lesson.

Writing Sample 9 – Commentary

- The writer is able to provide some details and reasons in support of their point of view, but linguistic issues at times get in the way of meaning (what does “A lesson do noise and distribute the lesson” mean?).
 - In this response, the basic structure of the essay is there with an opening sentence that describes the controversy on the topic (although it was copied directly from the prompt), a thesis, supporting details, and a conclusion. However, the use of cohesive devices are incorrectly used (“and” in the first sentence where “while” is called for, “However,” “Finally”) which negatively affect the flow of ideas. For example, “however” should be used to contrast ideas, but the writer did not contrast ideas; the writer talked about additional benefits of using technology in the classroom, so an additive transitional word/phrase should have been used.
 - For the majority of the essay, the writer’s grammar is accurate. There was a mistake in the adjective “interested” as it should be “interesting” and in the wrong usage of “have not.” The writer uses a combination of simple and compound sentences. There was a complex sentence that was attempted, but it was incomprehensible (“Finally students have not the opportunity to see live different things about a issue of a lesson so they have not viewpoint about it”).
- ▶ Writing Sample 9 is an example of a Fail (0-605) writing performance.