ECPE Writing Assessment Criteria

Rhetoric

- Length and development

- Relevance

- Details

- Complexity of argument

- Connection of ideas

Grammar/Syntax

- Accuracy of syntax

- Range of structures

- Severity of errors

- Control

Vocabulary

- Range

- Relevance to prompt

- Appropriateness

ECPE Writing Samples with Commentary

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

Question 1 Writing Samples 1, 4, 5, 7, 9

Question: Today people use computers and online services to help them with many of their daily activities. However, some people are concerned that using these tools may reveal private information about them. What do you think are advantages and disadvantages of trusting technology with private information?

Question 2 Writing Samples 2, 6, 9

Question: In this digital age, more and more people are interacting through social networking sites. There are both risks and benefits to using social networks to communicate with people. Do you think socializing online decreases or increases interaction among people? Give reasons to support your opinion.

Question 3 Writing Sample 3

Question: The cost to ride public transportation is rising in many cities. Some people want governments to invest more tax money in public transportation to keep fares low. Do you think this is a good use of tax money? Give reasons to support your opinion.

Writing Sample 1

The advent of the digital era, with the development and widespread use of computers and the Internet, has revolutionized the way we perceive things and process information, profoundly affecting every single aspect of our lives. However, utilizing these tools requires that one trusts them with some private information, something that has sparked a controversy on whether we should do so. To effectively examine the problem, one should first spot and analize its benefits and drawbacks.

On the one side of the coin, giving some of our private information to online tools like Facebook or Google could open up a whole new world of possibilities, giving us the opportunity to communicate with people all over the world and come in contact with a wealth of ideologies, theories and stands of living, which would be otherwise unreachable. In that way, we broaden our horizons, being able to readily learn about every topic under the sun and digitally "meet" different cultures, thus becoming well-rounded individuals, with a deep understanding of the world around us.

On the other side of coin, the private information given to all the online tools could be used for illicit and unlawful practices, jeopardizing our well-being and putting our basic human rights in danger. Judging from the 2018 Facebook Scandal, we can argue that even large and "trustworthy" corporations could be involved in an illegal exchange of private information. Sexual preferences, age, country of origin, religion and political beliefs could all be used by governments and multinational corporations to manipulate public opinion, giving fertile ground for authoritarian regimes or market monopolies to grow. It is the citizen who actually seems to loose the most in such a case.

All in all, I am certain that digital tools and the Internet are of great benefit both for the community and the individual. Nonetheless, they should be regulated and strictly examined by independent authorities, in order to rule out every possibility of personal information theft and foster its beneficial nature.

Writing Sample 1 – Commentary

- This writer is clearly able to convey finer shades of meaning. One way is by the use of quotation marks around the word "meet" to indicate that they are not using the word in the usual sense. The writer uses this device a second time in a slightly different way with the word "trustworthy," to convey the idea of "apparently so, but not really." The use of this rhetorical device in writing also creates solidarity between the writer and reader, which is a way of building mutual understanding.

- Consider the writer's use of the phrase "on the one side of the coin," and notice that omitting the phrase does not really negatively affect the organization of the essay. This is in part because the last sentence of the first paragraph ("benefits and drawbacks") already telegraphed how the essay would be organized, and the separate paragraphs further helped to communicate this.

  If anything, the phrase "on the one side of the coin" is linguistically awkward. (A Google search shows that there are almost 5 million examples of "on the other side of the coin," but less than 500 instances of "on the one side of the coin.")

  While teachers like to teach students these stock phrases, it can often be a disservice to students, especially stronger students. Research shows that at the C levels of the CEFR, the use of lexical cohesive devices actually starts to decrease, as writers learn other strategies for achieving cohesion. Teaching and learning activities aimed at helping stronger students further develop their skills in organizing their writing would be useful.

- It is clear that this writer uses a wide range of complex structures and with very good control, including the use of embedding in the first sentence of the essay ("… , with the development and widespread use of computers and the internet, …")

- This writer uses language in idiomatic/natural sounding fashion, contributing to the sense that the writer knows what they are doing, and therefore increases the reader's receptivity to the writer's ideas.

  It is worth noting the use of the word "jeopardizing." This is a word that ECPE writers appear to have been taught to use, as it shows up more frequently than expected. In this case it is used appropriately, but quite often it is not. Thus, teachers should make sure to not just give students lists of low-frequency words to drop into their essays, but to help them practice how to use these words idiomatically.

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

Writing Sample 2

It is a well known fact that technology has played a role of great importance in the 21st century. Although beneficial in many aspects of our lives, some believe that technology has created a new social problem which is underdevelopment of social skills. Personally, I believe that this is not a major problem for a number of reasons.

First of all, to say that technology has not brought people closer to each other would be a blatant lie. Technology—especially social media—has given the chance to people to communicate with each other without taking into consideration the distance between them. Of course, the problem is overusing social media to an extent that it becomes harmful. Some believe that adolescents do not develop the social skills needed because of this overuse. This statement is incorrect for the reason being that adolescents, through social media, create a new form of communication, one that past generations may not understand fully. So when a teenager sents "emojis" to another one does not mean that he cannot communicate his feelings. In fact this method has been found to be a more efficient and fast one.

We live in a society that is constantly evolving and with society we evolve too as people. The pace of life has become faster. People these days do not have the time to write letters or to communicate with each other face to face. Life nowadays requires solutions that are fast and efficient. One such solution is text-messaging. This method of communication—although unorthodox to some—is fulfilling these requirements. It may take some time for some to get used to it and that is the exact reason why adolescents are the only ones who understand this method; it is because they were brought up in this new age of technology and so they familiarized with it from a very young age.

On the other side though, technology and social media have their drawbacks such as the previously stated overuse which could lead even to serious mental issues in some extreme cases.

In conclusion, despite the fact that technology and social media may become addictive in some cases, I believe that the previous statement that adolescents lack the social skills needed to communicate with each other is incorrect because it is an underrated method of communication that only some do not fully understand and as the famous saying goes; do not judge a book by its cover.

Writing Sample 2 – Commentary

- The claim that the essay is responding to is that technology is leading to the underdevelopment of social skills in young people. Instead of a black-and-white answer (Technology is bad!), it gives a creative and nuanced response: it's not that their social skills are underdeveloped, but that they're expressed in different ways, because the world is changing, and some people simply fail to see this. Brilliant!

  When teaching, try to include strategies for developing ideas (mind maps), encouraging students to be curious and inquisitive, and to read widely.

- It of course requires a certain level of language and writing ability to be able to convey a proposition such as this writer did. Notice, for example, the sophisticated communication of a complex idea in "We live in a society that is constantly evolving and with society we evolve too as people." Claims and arguments are often qualified ("Although beneficial in many aspects … ," "to an extent that," "may not understand fully," "although unorthodox to some," "which could lead," and "may become addictive"). The essay, as a genre, is about the careful and dispassionate consideration of ideas, so the reasonable tone brought about by these qualified statements works well.

  In contrast to those qualified statements, there is the phrase "blatant lie," which is jarring because its illocutionary force is so different from everything else. It would be worthwhile to review lists of adjectives that are apparent synonyms, teasing out the subtle differences in meaning, connotation, and rhetorical effect.

  There is also the trite ending ("as the famous saying goes; do not judge a book by its cover"). Good writing is characterized not by the use of clichés or idioms, but by the use of idiomatic (e.g. natural sounding) language.

- With regard to organization, notice that the writer didn't need an explicit, lexical cohesive device at the beginning of paragraph 3, instead letting the statement of a thesis signal the move to the next idea.

- The writer mixes longer sentences with shorter ones, simple sentences and complex constructions (including the correct use of a semi-colon). Varying the length of sentences helps to keep writing interesting and can also be a device for creating emphasis ("One such solution is text messaging").

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

Writing Sample 3

Nowadays, the ever-increasing cost of riding public transportations has caused a turmoil. It is true that public transportation services are a very helpful tool for the everyday life, but the increased fee creates a burden on the citizens. Thus, many of them demand that part of the tax money should be invested in these services.

In most of the big cities, public transportation services expand so much, that they cover almost every district. Buses, trains, trams and the subway synchronize properly and help people reach their destination on time. They are new and modern, but most of all, they appear to be eco-friendly as they seem to avoid the gas emmisions of the past. They function mainly by electricity and that is also an advantage. In zero time, one can also find himself across the city. Despite all these advantages, a great disadvantage has made its appearance the last few years: the fee has gotten more expensive, leaving many people to wonder if they can afford to use these services or not. So, in order for a solution to be found, many people proposed that the government should invest tax money in public transportation.

Taxation has always been a great weapon of the government. Not only does it make citizens to fulfill their responsibilities to the state, but also provides great funding for other aspects of everyday life. I personally believe that this use of tax money will prove to be extremely beneficial for the citizens, only if there are not any other state responsibilities that need to be fulfilled. To be more specific, tax money should be exploited in the most feasible—for the citizens—way and if for example, this money could be invested in creating facilities and shelters for homeless or children, it would be more preferable, for unfortunately there are higher values at risk than being on time.

In conclusion, I believe that this proposal has a valid backround, but this matter should be examined from as many perspectives possible, for the solution that must be found should benefit as many members of the community as possible. Public transportation services may be the fuels that keep the engine of society going, but there are more perilous threats that need to be eliminated.

Writing Sample 3 – Commentary

- This writer is very much able to convey finer shades of meaning, as can be seen in "…for unfortunately there are higher values at risk than being on time." A weaker response would have said something along the lines of public transportation being "unreasonably expensive," "the worst thing ever," and a "grave danger" that we should focus "all our resources and attention on." This response recognizes that there is indeed a problem, but that it needs to be weighed alongside other problems, and a balanced determination made.

  There is another gem in the response: "Public transportation services may be the fuels that keep the engine of society going. …" Never mind the agreement error, the writer uses on-theme language ("fuel," "engine") in a figurative way, making for a much more satisfying ending than the over-used idiom in Writing Sample 2 ("do not judge a book by its cover").

- "[P]ublic transportations services. … Buses, trains, trams and the subway. … They are new and modern. …" Instead of using the phrase "public transportation" repeatedly, the writer uses substitution and reference. This helps the paragraph flow much better and is characteristic of more sophisticated writing.

  Key words from the prompt tend to be overused in writers' responses. (Note, for example, how frequently "private information" was used in Writing Samples 1 and 4.) Teach students to identify the key words in the prompt, and then to come up with other words they might use in instead, (including the use of substitution, reference, ellipsis, etc.).

- The phrases are idiomatic, with the exception of "caused a turmoil."

▶ Writing Sample 3 is an example of a High Pass (840-1000) writing performance.

Writing Sample 4

Nowadays, by the rise of technology, the vast majority of people use different devices and gadgets in order to communicate, for entertainment and other reasons that are necessary for them. Recently, there was a big leak of private information in social media and people from all-around the world stopped trusting technology because of their private information leak. While others take the view that technology has a ton of assets but everyone must use it right. In response to what is happening recently, I will discuss about the assets and drawbacks of trusting technology in general.

Firstly, I take the view that technology cem be safe and useful at the same time but the person that handles and use it must now some main things about it in order to be safe from the internet and social media. For instance, people willing to send their photos to a friend or a family member must be able to use it safely and not, by mistake, upload the photos or sending them to a stranger. So, by technology, everyone can share private stuff all-around the world and that is a huge advantage that people should use.

Secondly, another major advantage of technology is that, by devices such as cameras and mobile phones, everyone can take a picture of a special day or even a vacation and can save it for a long period of time in their device's memory. For example, people that are willing or travelling abroad can save their photos by these devices that they can also save a big number of pictures because of their oversized memory, safer and in better quality and all that already packed inside them they are also inexpensive and everyone is able to afferd them, regardless of their budget. So, technology can be beneficial because it can save a big number of private informatio safe.

On the other side of the coin, a huge drawback that should be mentioned is that, technology has also a dark side. For instemce, there are a lot of people, who practise and know how technology works that by advanced technology can gain access to private files or even some significant country information that the government uses fer very important reasons. So, by knewing this, everyone must be able to ward off people that trying to leak private information.

In conclusion, technology and other devices can be very helpful for the vast majority of people because they are able to share private files from a place to place in the world and also they can save a huge number of files, etc. photos. But technology can also be very dangerous because of the people that are trying to gain access in your files. Finally, I take the view and I believe that everyone should trust technology and the reasons why are mentioned above.

Writing Sample 4 – Commentary

- Topics used in ECPE Writing tests can be treated in a black and white fashion, but C level writers are able to qualify their ideas. This response is able to do that ("technology cem be safe and useful … but the person … must now some main things about it in order to be safe," "technology has also a dark side …" while acknowledging "significant country information that the government uses fer very important reasons") if not very elegantly or consistently (the concluding sentence falls back to black and white, "everyone should trust technology").

- Consider the two points developed here (1: Technology is useful if we attend to a few of its basics; and 2: technology helps us store our photographs). The first point is well served by the example of sending information to the wrong person, which many people can understand and identify with. The second point about technology assisting us in storing our photographs was less successful, where the first and second sentences of that paragraph convey much of the same information.

- Control of complex structures is uneven. Use activities that engage students in editing sample responses such as this one (or each other's writing), to signal that evaluating and revising one's work is crucial to improving their writing.

- Note that good collocations and idiomatic language ("for a long period of time," "regardless of their budget," "a dark side," "can gain access to," "the vast majority of people") don't necessarily require using big words. (For that matter, it might be better in this case to say "On the other hand" rather than "On the other side of the coin.")

  Even so, this writer's vocabulary range is somewhat limited, as evidenced by the frequent use of generalities ("other reasons," some main things," "some significant country information," "very important reasons," and "the reasons why are mentioned above"), some of which could have been substituted for, detailed, or exemplified. There is also systematic misuse of certain words such as "by" and "willing.

▶ Writing Sample 4 is an example of a Low Pass (650-745) writing performance.

Writing Sample 5

Nowadays more and more people use online services and computers to help them with some of their daily problems. Although it is essential sometimes to use technology, it can be really dangerous if we are not careful with it and can reveal some of our personal information. There are many advantages and disadvantages too of trusting technology with our information.

To start with, using computers and online services can be helpful. It can help us get through of some daily difficulties. For example if someone is looking for a job he/she can find it very easily on the internet. It is an entertaining system because someone can make blogs, vlogs or upload some amazing videos. It is so easy to get entertained by those. Applications from where you can listen to music or the use of social media.

On the other hand, it can be very dangerous and detrimental. Trusting technology with a lot of our private information is a bad decision to come up with. As long as someone uses information based on their daily activities, people who are also known as hackers can get with a very easy way all of the things they have trusted on the online sites. Social media is the easiest way to do this.

To sum up with, it is useful to use and trust technology to help you with ordinary activities and difficulties. Therefore it is important and essential to be careful and not trust technology with private information of yours. You can find many pros and cons but as long as cons are existing you have to be aware of the internet problems.

Writing Sample 5 – Commentary

- Nowadays, many ECPE Writing responses begin with the word "nowadays" (cf. Writing Sample 3). There is nothing wrong with it per se, but it can be a lazy way of starting an essay, where a more interesting beginning may be possible.

  You can also see that many of the words used in the introduction were taken from the prompt ("people use online services and computers to help them with some of their daily problems" and "advantages and disadvantages too of trusting technology with our information"). Writers should not directly copy the words in the prompt; instead, think of synonyms or other ways to express the same idea.

  In terms of the content for the introduction, the writer does not provide some background information about the topic. You can see that the first sentence refers to paragraph 2, the second sentence refers to paragraph 3.

- Looking at the structure of the essay, paragraph 2 should talk about the advantages and paragraph 3 should talk about the disadvantages. However, paragraph 2 does not directly relate the idea of looking for a job to using our private information online. If the writer expanded that idea, such as the convenience of storing our private information online in order to apply for the jobs online, then it would link to the question better. The following idea of "blogs, vlogs, or […] amazing videos" seems irrelevant. How does entertainment relate to the trust of private information online?

  The third paragraph mentions that it can be dangerous to store private information on computers or the internet as hackers can access users' common websites. However, the writer doesn't explain why this is dangerous. More elaboration would have been good.

- The essay is generally comprised of simple and compound sentences with a few complex sentences. Two of the three complex sentences have problems which can affect the communication of meaning. For example, in paragraph 1, the writer writes, "Although it is essential sometimes to use technology, it can be really dangerous if we are not careful with it and can reveal some of our personal information." Does the writer mean 1) it can be dangerous if we can reveal some of our personal information or 2) it can be dangerous if we reveal some of our personal information? Notice the difference between these two ideas.

  The other complex sentence that is unclear due to word choice is "As long as someone uses information based on their daily activities, people who are also known as hackers can get with a very easy way all of the things have trusted on the online sites. Who is "someone" and does "their" relate to that "someone"? Is "someone" the hacker? These unclear pronoun references will need to be addressed.

  There also seems to be a problem with the preposition "with" or with phrasal verbs (e.g., "get with," "come up with," and "to sum up with." "Get with" and "come up with" are phrasal verbs but they are not used in the right context.

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

Writing Sample 6

Some people believe that young people today are not developing the social skills necessary to communicate effectively with other due to modern technology, such as texting with cell phones or posting on social media sites. In my view, this statement is absolutely true and a very common problem nowadays.

Today, lots of young people tend to communicate via the Internet and most of the time by using their cellphones. This behavior has turned them into something like robots. Teens do not have the social skills provided to have a conversation with each other.

One reason why I believe that, would be the fact that young adults use texting through cellphone instead of going out and developing their communication skills with other people. That leads to some very negative effects on their social but also personal life. One more reason why I believe that is that we see teenagers in cafés or restaurants being on their phones, taking pictures and posting their lifes on social media sites, trying to look happy on their internet fake friends. They do not talk or discuss a problem or a topic and their happiness depends on their likes they are going to get on a post. These kind of behaviors will also have a very bad impact on their future job.

To sum it up, I personally think that parents should do something effective and take control of their children and the time that they spend on their smartphones. I believe that with common sense and a little bit of an effort we could solve this big problem once and for all.

Writing Sample 6 – Commentary

- The phrase "This behavior [communicating via the Internet and on their cellphone] has turned them into something like robots" is a good metaphor, which is a sophisticated way of communicating an idea. It's just too bad that the writer does not do more with it in this response.

- The writer is able to give a clear position stating that she agrees that modern technology has negatively affected young people's social skills and gives a possible reason ("young people tend to communicate via the Internet … [and] their cellphones"). However, the third paragraph gives more examples of how young people use their cellphones and the internet to communicate such as texting, taking selfies, and posting it on social media, which are not additional reasons as the writer indicated through the use of the transitional words "One reason" and "one more reason." There are several instances where more elaboration is needed ("That leads to some very negative effects on their social but also personal life" and "trying to look happy on their internet fake friends"). In the conclusion, new information is mentioned ("parent should do something effective …") which should not be there as the conclusion is meant to summarize the main ideas of the essay.

- The writer uses a wide range of syntactic structures, and sentences are generally well controlled. It can also be seen that the writer paraphrased the language used in the prompt and used exemplification (e.g., "Some people believe that young people today are not developing the social skills necessary to communicate effectively with other due to modern technology, such as texting with cell phones or posting on social media sites"), rather than just copy from the prompt, as some writers do. This shows that the writer has some flexibility and range.

  There are some grammatical problems ("to communicate effectively with other," "young adults use texting through cellphone," and "negative effects on their social but also personal life"), but these do not affect communication.

- The vocabulary used is adequate to express the writer's opinions. There are also some examples of good idiomatic language such as "communicate via" and "take control of." However, there is some repetition in language such as "One reason why I believe that," "One more reason why I believe that," and "communicate" which was used three times (communicate and communication), so it would be good for the learner to work on their vocabulary range further. Changing the sentence structure when introducing different reasons could also make the writing more interesting.

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

Writing Sample 7

We live in the era of highly developing technology. We use computers and other compact devices on daily basis. There are a plethora of activities which are available for us to do online. The question is how dangerous it could be to trust technology with our private information?

To start with, it is generally known that almost everything around us depends on technology nowadays. There is no need to leave a house to do our daily activities, because we have a lot of devices which allow us to do all we need any time and anywhere. For example, we can buy an airplane ticket, order a pair of shoes or even pay our taxes online.

However, to purshuade this we need to complete simple form which contains some private information about us. In this case some people are concerned how easy it could be to become a victim of a crime revealing this kind of information about us.

First of all, it is necessary to provide our device with a protect program. It could help us to protect our information from criminals.

Moreover, it is important to use only well known sites to do our daily routine. Because there are a lot of sites which are seeking for a victim to steal and use our private information for a crime.

To recapitulate, it is extremely easy to do our daily activities online. However, we need to be aware of danger the Internet can hide. Thus, it is better to be careful of what information we reveal online and to use only trustful sites to do this. In other words, if we are careful enough where is no danger of trusting technology at all.

Writing Sample 7 – Commentary

- The topic is developed, albeit quite simply. As such, the response doesn't tend to get much into the complexity of the topic. It also makes for rather thin paragraphs. Encourage students to develop their ideas and arguments more fully.

- What advantages of trusting technology with private information does the writer identify? It is difficult to clearly identify the advantage. In the second paragraph, the writer talks about the convenience of technology ("buy an airplane ticket, order a pair of shoes or even pay our taxes online") but does not actually mention how it relates to the advantage of trusting technology with private information. The third paragraph does talk about how private information is stored in forms when purchasing items, so the writer could make the connection between this idea and the previous idea, expanding on the idea that trusting technology with private information can make life easier.

  One disadvantage that the writer mentions is that people could become "a victim of a crime" in paragraph 3. The following paragraphs give suggestions to protect private information, but using the linking devices "first of all" and "moreover" is not very effective.

- Consider the following sentences:

  a. "We use computer and other compact devices on daily basis."
  b. "There is no need to leave a house to do our daily activities."
  c. "… we need to complete simple form …"

  In each of these sentences, there is a problem with article ("a/an," "the") usage. Although the use of articles is one of the most difficult aspects of grammar to learn, especially for those whose first language does not have articles, it can still be taught. Start by reviewing count and non-count nouns, and specific and general nouns.

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

Writing Sample 8

It is generally accepted that more and more people use computers and other online services to help them. This situation has many advantages and disadvantages.

First of all, someone using computers for private use that has some benefits. For example, if people want to collect information which are about them, they can to reserch to a lot of sait and they can found that they want. Moreover, in this situation all people can to found whatever they want and any time they wand. However, nowadays the majority of people has internet and they use them all time for communicate with other people. Another advantage is that a lot of people use the computers and online services to put there very important private informations.

On the other hand there are drawbacks for someone to use computers and online services. For example the private information are dangerous to share are on the internet because it is easely to take this information and others people who do not know. Also it is difficult to trust the machine to protect the private informations because sometimes the computers doing miLostacks. Furthermore, when someone reaserch something on the internet after all time to appear informations abou theme.

To sum up, I believe that it is dangerous to turst computers or online services and someone to rearerchs or found private informations because this informations which are important can to disappear or to use from unknow people. Finally all things have advantages and disadvantages such as computers and online services.

Writing Sample 8 – Commentary

- This writer did not completely grasp the question, writing about the utility of computer technologies, rather than about the privacy issues that come with them. Further evidence that the writer did not understand the question can be seen in paragraph two, where there are several sentences that do not have a clear connection with the question in the prompt (collecting information about themselves, and communicating with others). How do these ideas relate to trusting private information on computers and online? These ideas need to be related to the question or should be taken out. So, there are some fundamental things for the writer to work on.

- It would be good for the writer to review the basic structure of sentences, as there are sentence fragments ("First of all, someone using computers for private use that has some benefits"), and to review subject-verb agreement ("people has"). Another mistake that the writer consistently makes is with the usage of uncountable nouns ("informations").

  In terms of enhancing the cohesiveness of the essay, the writer needs to be careful with the use of appropriate transitional words as the writer incorrectly used "moreover" (not an additional idea) and "however" (not contrasting the previous idea). Improper use of transitional words causes comprehension issues for the reader. The writer would benefit from reviewing the meaning of various transitional words and practicing how to use them in context.

- There is a lot of repetition of words in the essay like "informations" and "computers and online services." There are times when a person may want to use repetition to emphasize a point, but in this case, it seems to indicate a writer with limited vocabulary. Think of some ways the writer could vary the type of language used in this essay.

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

Writing Sample 9

A matter of considerable controversiti of this issue is that this days meny people did not have the skills to communicate effectively with others using social networks. In my opinion we have a plethora of reasons to use technology to comunicate.

First very convincing argument about using social network to comunicate is that alloud us to comunicate with people which is far away in real time and as a result we fell good becous now we can sea the frend or the everybody.

A further very convincing argument about the use of social skils is too helpfool from parents or single mothers to work or stady in their hous using their computers and care their child. As a result is able to do all about their jobe or their school or colege without live their hous.

On the other side of the coin meny pepol belive that social skills restrict you from the real life and makes you a person who posting all time on social media and texting with your frends without personal comunication and as a result this persons fear this technology and they didn't develop this skill

All things concider the obvious conclousion is to be evidence with saporters of using social skill maintain that it help us. The opponents claim that social skills restrict us and make us a person who use all time their mobile phone or computer. Both sides has strong argument to support their belives but it is up to us to us how we use the technology

Writing Sample 9 – Commentary

- This response is written more like an expository essay when the question is looking for an argumentative essay. The two require somewhat different approaches to development. This is something worth discussing with your students.

- There is a lack of control in the student's grammar/syntax indicated by a grammatical problem in each sentence. The writer tries to vary the sentence structures but there are many problems. Based on the student's errors, it might be worth working on demonstrative adjectives "this" and "these" ("this day" and "this persons"), prepositions ("is too helpfool from parents," "care their child," and "able to do all about their jobe"), present tense ("many people did not have the skills," "that aloud us," and "who posting"), and fragments ("that aloud us" and "As a result, is able").

- Using the words "convincing argument" does not in any way make an argument more convincing, as the type of support given should be enough to "convince" the reader. In order to be persuasive, students should make sure that they make their argument very clear and give enough support (evidence, explanation, and elaboration) as well as give a counterargument with refutation in an argumentative essay.

- The learned/taught/memorized phrases ("A matter of considerable controversiti," "On the other side of the coin," and "All things concider") and vocabulary ("plethora," also used in Writing Sample 4 in almost exactly the same position) stand out because the student's own language is so weak. This student would probably benefit more from working on the basics of vocabulary, grammar, and spelling rather than working on extended writing.

▶ Writing Sample 9 is an example of a Fail (0-605) writing performance.