



**MICHIGAN
LANGUAGE
ASSESSMENT**

ECPE

WRITING RESOURCE PACK
October 2024



How to Use this Resource

This resource pack has been created for both students preparing to take the Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE) on their own and for teachers designing lessons to help their students improve their writing skills for ECPE. This document includes a set of sample writing responses and commentary, a set of additional ECPE practice writing prompts, and recommendations to students who are preparing for ECPE.

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Overview of ECPE Writing

Writing at the C2 Level

ECPE is aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), developed by the Council of Europe. The CEFR describes what language learners need to learn in order to communicate in another language. It also provides a way to measure learners' progress at each stage of their learning¹.

ECPE is designed for teenagers and adults who want to certify advanced English language proficiency, or C2 level on the CEFR. To successfully prepare students for ECPE, it can be helpful to understand what is expected of a user of English at the C2 level when writing in English.

According to the CEFR, writers at a C2 level:

- can produce clear, smoothly flowing, complex texts in an appropriate and effective style and a logical structure which helps the reader identify significant points. (Council of Europe, 2020: 66)
- can exploit idiom and humor appropriately to enhance the impact of the text. (Council of Europe, 2020: 67)
- can produce clear, smoothly flowing, complex reports, articles or essays which present a case, or give critical appreciation of proposals or literary works. (Council of Europe, 2020: 68)
- can provide an appropriate and effective logical structure which helps the reader identify significant points. (Council of Europe, 2020: 68)
- can set out multiple perspectives on complex academic or professional topics, clearly distinguishing their own ideas and opinions from those in the sources. (Council of Europe, 2020: 68)

ECPE Writing Format and Structure

1 task | 45 minutes

Test takers answer ONE of the following:

- Task 1 (Article or Proposal)
- Task 2 (Essay)

ECPE writing tasks will ask the test taker to consider and present multiple points of view on a given topic. Three sources in the form of simple charts, graphs, figures, and quotations are provided, at least one of which should be incorporated into the response. Test takers are encouraged to produce a well-developed response to demonstrate their advanced level of proficiency and ability to effectively communicate their ideas in written English.

¹ Council of Europe. Council for Cultural Co-operation. Education Committee. Modern Languages Division. (2001). Common European framework of reference for languages: Learning, teaching, assessment. Cambridge University Press.

Example ECPE Writing Prompts

Top 4 In-Demand Soft Skills

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Flexibility

—a recent online article

“We find that certain skills, like organization and creativity, are difficult to measure effectively.”

—Nicole Jones,
human resources manager

63%

young adults who say their leadership skills are not being fully developed

—a market research study

Task 1: Article

The principal of your school plans to require students to take a course in “soft skills” - like leadership, teamwork, and communication - in order to graduate. Some teachers and students are excited about this idea, but others are not. Write an opinion article for the school newspaper on the effects of requiring students to take such a course. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Task 2: Essay

Many employers are starting to consider qualities other than directly-related education or work experience when making decisions about whom to hire. What positive and negative effects do you think this might have? Write an essay addressing this topic, and give your opinion on it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

ECPE Writing Types

Article

An article should present an opinion about a given topic and is written for a specific audience, which will be stated in the prompt.

Proposal

A proposal is a formal plan or suggested course of action, and the writer presents their opinion for consideration to a person of authority. The specific audience for the proposal will be included in the prompt.

Essay

An essay is usually written for an academic audience, and presents the opinion of the author supported by reasons and evidence.

Regardless of the chosen task, test takers are expected to present multiple points of view in their writing, and integrate at least one of the provided sources into their response.

How Writing is Scored

ECPE Writing is evaluated by certified raters, according to the ECPE Writing Scale, reproduced below:

Task Completion	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Response addresses the prompt-specific topic and fulfills all of the task requirements. ▶ Integrates at least one provided source in the response.
	4	*
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Response is in the general topic area and fulfills all of the task requirements. ▶ Includes at least one provided source in the response.
	2	*
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Response is in the general topic area but does not fulfill all of the task requirements. ▶ Does not include a provided source in the response.

Development	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ideas are extensively supported and developed. Response is a well thought out and convincing consideration of the topic. ▶ Clearly and logically organized.
	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ideas are well-supported and developed, and an in-depth consideration of the topic is provided. ▶ Clearly and logically organized.
	3	*
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support for ideas is given but may not be fully developed. Attempts to provide in-depth consideration of the topic. ▶ Not clearly or logically organized.
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ideas are not supported. Consideration of the topic is simplistic or generalized. ▶ Not clearly or logically organized.

Language	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrates flexibility and a high degree of control of both simple and complex syntactic structures. ▶ Uses precise, sophisticated vocabulary appropriate to the context.
	6	*
	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrates control of simple and some complex syntactic structures. ▶ Uses simple and sometimes sophisticated vocabulary to adequately match the context.
	4	*
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrates control of simple but not complex syntactic structures. ▶ Uses simple vocabulary; attempts to use sophisticated vocabulary may not fit naturally into the context and may cause confusion.
	2	*
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrates inconsistent control of simple syntactic structures. ▶ Produces everyday vocabulary; most attempts at sophisticated vocabulary are not accurate or precise, mostly confusing to the reader.

Authorial Voice	3	▶ Content is highly original; response engages the reader.
	2	*
	1	▶ Content is not original; response is not engaging for the reader.

* Response shares features of adjacent levels.

No Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No response is given. ▶ Response is completely illegible. ▶ Response is written on a different topic than those assigned. ▶ Response is written in test taker's L1.
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Test takers must demonstrate their competency in producing written English at the C2 level, as evaluated by the ECPE Rating Scale. Test takers are not evaluated on their opinion but on how their ideas are communicated. The rating scale is a useful tool, both for students to self-assess their performance and for teachers who wish to provide feedback to students.

Task Completion refers to how thoroughly the prompt-specific topic has been addressed and how the task requirements have been fulfilled. This category also considers the integration of the provided sources.

Development refers to the extent to which ideas have been supported and developed, and how clearly and logically the content has been organized.

Language refers to the range and accuracy of both vocabulary and grammar. There should be a broad range of both sophisticated vocabulary and advanced grammar, used accurately and appropriately.

Authorial Voice refers to the originality of the written response and the extent to which devices have been used to engage the reader in the text.

A note on handwriting: Test takers will not be marked down for poor handwriting. However, it is important they ensure their handwriting is legible so raters are able to easily read the written response.

Articles

Example responses with commentary

In this section you will find sample responses with commentary from past ECPE administrations for the article task (Task 1).

**Top 4 In-Demand
Soft Skills**

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Flexibility

—a recent online article

“We find
that certain skills,
like organization and
creativity, are difficult to
measure effectively.”

*—Nicole Jones,
human resources
manager*

63%

young adults who
say their leadership skills
are not being fully
developed

—a market research study

Task 1: Article

The principal of your school plans to require students to take a course in “soft skills” - like leadership, teamwork, and communication - in order to graduate. Some teachers and students are excited about this idea, but others are not. Write an opinion article for the school newspaper on the effects of requiring students to take such a course. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Article Response #1: Tomás

Soft skills on school: Are they essential

The principal of our school is thinking to require students to take a course in soft skills. But, there are a lot of concerns about this idea. The benefits and the pitfalls of this plan must be taken into account.

To begin with, many teachers and students believe that it is useless and they have some solid arguments. Specifically, they think that a lot of them are taught a ther inside the lesson. In other words, some skills like colloboration and critical thinking, students already knew them, because of the assignments and some programmms that the school is involved. Thus, it will be waste of time to reteach them to the students.

In addition to that, teachers may not know how to help them in order to require the skills. Indeed according to Nicole Jones these certain skills are very difficult to measure effectively. This means that if we want to do really something we should organize some seminars for the teacher or to hire new personell. As a result, we are going to spend much money which can be spend to enhance the facilities of school and of course more time. Last but not least, teachers haven't already enough time to do the basic lessons, Do they have for something extra which they don't maybe even know?

On the other hand, there are some concrete arguments for this to happen, which in my opinion shouldn't be ignored. First and foremost, the majority of young adults believe, according to a market research study, that their leadership skills aren't being Fully developed. In other words, they think that they need these course in order to think that they are ready enough for the short run future. As so, they will probably rebbel if we don't do what they want. This means, that they may leave our school and go in another one, which surely we don't want to happen. Moreover, students should have soft skills such as creativity and flexibility because there are essential in their future career. To put it differently, in the future they will come into a lot of problems not only to their work, but also to their daily life and they need these skills in order to solve them. We must not forget that one of the main reason why school is mandatory is because help children to confront the difficulties that may appear in the future.

Taking everything into serious consideration, I think that the advantages outweigh to the disadvantages, as this courses help the students to their future life and career.

Comments

- Task Completion** The response addresses the prompt-specific topic by discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the soft-skills courses. Two of the provided sources are referenced and used to support the viewpoints presented.
- Development** The test taker has included several arguments for and against the suggestion. The essay is logically organized, discussing the arguments against the topic first and then providing an alternative view and finishing with a conclusion. The test taker has attempted an in-depth consideration of the topic.
- Language** The test taker demonstrates control of simple and some complex syntactic structures, though there are errors present in both vocabulary and grammar. They have made an effort to utilize sophisticated vocabulary, and the chosen vocabulary is appropriate for the context of an article.
- Authorial voice** The content is mostly original, with efforts made to engage the reader.
- ECPE Readiness** Based on this writing sample, this test taker is prepared to take the ECPE Writing Section.

Article Response #2: Evangeline

I'm writing this article for the school newspaper and I would like to express my opinion about my Principal's plans. Our principal wants, before students graduate they should take some courses in 'soft skills' to help them being more indepetents after finish their school career. These skills are lidership, teamwork and communicat. This situation sound excellent for some teachers but not at all.

In my opinion I believe that these kind of skills is something important for someone kids to know how to manage them. First of all thess courses it is sure that they helps kids after finish the school. Another good effect that tehse skills have is that they bring the kids at a position to get the situations at their hand and know how to pass all the difficultis that real life has. Now as it have being searching on the internet I read a market research study and said that a big amount of young adult have leadership skill but they don't have the fully developed at the leadership skills. That's why it should at a really time to set at our schedule these courses.

On the other hand they exist people that find these courses not very interesting and a bit difficult to teach them at the kids. Due to write that I also read a speech of Nicole Jones who is a human resources manager and I said to being realizedd all these certain skill of organizations and creativity should taught them correctly to tent our point. If it doesn't move these they might have to measure effectively.

To shum up as you undertand I'm very suspicious if these couser get into our shoul and taught as to control them. I don't give a change whose don't want to have these skills because they might being bored to have extra hours to their schedule SO I urge to have these knowledge as to.

Comments

Task Completion The context, topic and genre of the text are clearly stated in the introduction, but not all task requirements are fulfilled as the essay does not fully discuss the effects of requiring students to take the courses. Two sources are mentioned but are not integrated.

Development The test taker has attempted to provide support for her ideas, but they are not fully developed. She has attempted to provide an in-depth consideration of the topic by offering two perspectives, but the response lacks supporting details. The response is not clearly or logically organized.

Language Vocabulary chosen is simple with some errors causing confusion for the reader. The ability to use simple grammatical structures is inconsistent.

Authorial voice The content is not original, with many of the ideas borrowed from the prompt. It is not engaging for the reader.

ECPE Readiness Based on this writing sample, this test taker is not ready to take ECPE and should continue to develop her writing skills to prepare for the ECPE Writing Section.

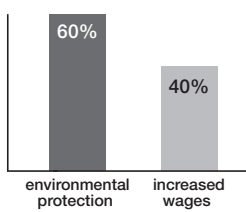
Article Prompts for Additional Practice

Below you will find three article prompts from previous ECPE Writing administrations.

- Respond to each prompt in 45 minutes or less.
- Compare your responses to the ECPE Writing Rating Scale and to the examples provided in this document.
- Evaluate your articles on each of the four categories mentioned in the writing rating scale: task completion, development, language, and authorial voice.
- As you re-read your articles and evaluate them based on the writing rating scale, identify your areas of strength and areas to improve in each of those four categories in your email responses.
- Rewrite your articles to improve your performance on each of these responses.

Article - Practice prompt #1

Important Issues for U.S. Citizens



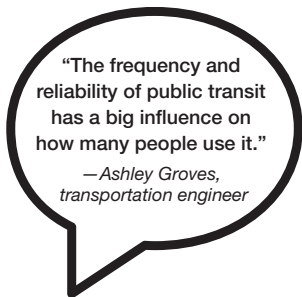
Issue	Percentage
environmental protection	60%
increased wages	40%

— a 2019 study

85%

people in the U.S. who use their own car to commute to work

— a recent survey



“The frequency and reliability of public transit has a big influence on how many people use it.”

— Ashley Groves, transportation engineer

Task 1: Article

A local company plans to provide a monthly bus or subway pass for all of their employees. Some employees think that the company’s money could be better spent on higher salaries. Write an **opinion article** for a local news website evaluating the different points of view on this idea and share your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Article - Practice prompt #2



49%

Canadians who are opposed to junk food advertising
—a 2019 study

40 million

children under 5 who are overweight or obese worldwide
—a 2016 research study

“A big part of being healthy is people’s diet and their amount of physical activity.”

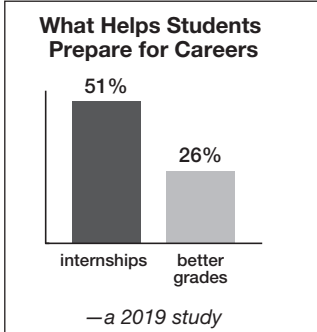
—Julie Stein, doctor

Task 1: Article

An elementary school in your city is planning to ban junk food like candy and potato chips. Some people do not think that this is a good idea. Write an **opinion article** for the local newspaper evaluating the different viewpoints on this issue and share your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Article - Practice prompt #3

What Helps Students Prepare for Careers

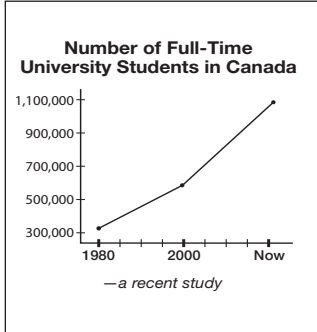


51% **26%**

internships better grades

—a 2019 study

Number of Full-Time University Students in Canada



1,100,000
900,000
700,000
500,000
300,000

1980 2000 Now

—a recent study

“Many young people want to live independently but they aren’t given the resources to succeed.”

—Ama Burnett, economist

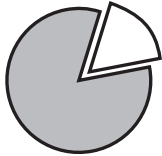
Task 1: Article

The businesses in your city are planning to require all new employees to have a university degree if they want a job. Many people are worried about this idea. Write an **opinion article** for a local news website describing the effects of this decision and share your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Proposals

Example responses with commentary

In this section you will find sample responses with commentary from past ECPE administrations for the proposal task (Task 1).



1 out of every 5 projects
is unsuccessful due to poor
communication

—a recent study

205
billion

emails sent per day
worldwide

—a 2018 news report

“When we speak,
55% of our message
is communicated through
facial expressions or
body language.”

—Elle Kochis,
psychology professor

Task 1: Proposal

The company you work for wants employees to be more efficient with their time and is planning to require all communication be done over email instead of in meetings. Some employees are concerned about this idea. Write a **proposal** to the company president evaluating the different courses of action and explain what you think should be done. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Proposal Response #1: Rachel

To: Company president

The aim of this proposal is to present to you the different courses of action and what I believe what should be done regarding to your plan to move all communication via email instead of meetings.

On the one hand, making all communication via email instead of meetings would make communication much faster than sitting in a meeting for hours on end because email can be sent to the whole company with one go. A 2018 news report has stated that 205 billion emails are sent per day worldwide. This explains the efficiency of using email when communicating with others.

First of all, the employees should do all work needed by computer because for example writing an essay is faster on the computer than paper. Then instead of meetings employees should communicate using email in group chat. By doing this we will have a lot of time by having our ideas already written in a file which will be sent to a group chat with all the people in the meeting. Lastly, using email instead of meetings will help employees with speech problems communicate without struggling.

To sum up, I believe that the plan should be done since using email is more efficient than face to face meetings.

Comments

Task Completion A single viewpoint is presented. The test taker has tried to integrate one of the given sources, but it is not well integrated to the argument.

Development There is limited development of ideas; support for the presented ideas is attempted but undeveloped. For example, the idea about email helping employees with communication problems is not developed in much detail, and the writer repeats their point that email is faster/more efficient several times. The response is not efficiently or logically organized.

Language There is a lack of control of both simple and complex structures. The language chosen is mostly simple, with some errors.

Authorial voice Content is not original, using language from the prompt. Limited engagement of the reader.

ECPE Readiness Based on this writing sample, this test taker is not ready to take ECPE and should continue to develop her writing skills to prepare for the ECPE Writing Section.

Proposal Response #2: Nicholas

It has come to my attention that the company wants us to communicate only over email and not in meetings in order to save us time and make employees more efficient.

I believe this issue needs to be examined better so I am going to propose some of my ideas and give my overall opinion.

On the one hand communication over email is a good solution to make us more punctual and save us time and energy that we certainly need. Especially nowadays that we live in a world where technology has evolved so much and we cant do anything without, as we see according to a 2018 news report presenting that 205 billion emails are sent per day worldwide. By emails we can transfer what we want to say to each other without even having to move from our desks. It takes so little time and things get done quickly.

On the other hand human interaction and face to face communication are very valuable aspects in order to have the best results. Meetings are very much needed because we can interact with the other person, ask our questions and make clarifications, something we need so we do not make many mistakes. According to a recent study 1 out of every 5 projects is unsuccessful due to poor communication so I'd say that the key to success is by understanding complete what the goal is, and you can only achieve that by meetings.

Also it is very important for us to take a break from the stress and all the anxiety and see other people, have a talk and get away from all the work, who wouldn't want that?

Overall I believe that the company needs to keep our meetings because they are important and make our work better and more efficient but also have communication done over email when the issue is simple and not that big so as to save us time. I really hope you take my thoughts into serious consideration.

Comments

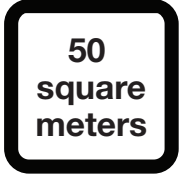
- Task Completion** The response fully addresses the prompt-specific task, and the author successfully integrates two of the provided sources into the response, using them to support the argument being presented.
- Development** Ideas are well supported and developed, with reasons and explanations to develop the ideas presented. There is an in-depth consideration of the topic, with two perspectives being discussed. The response is clearly and logically organized, with connectors used to help guide the reader through the response.
- Language** There is control of both simple and complex structures and some sophisticated use of vocabulary. Minor errors do not cause confusion for the reader. Vocabulary is well chosen and appropriate for the context.
- Authorial voice** Content is original and engaging for the reader.
- ECPE Readiness** Based on this writing sample, this test taker is prepared to take the ECPE Writing Section.

Proposal Prompts for Additional Practice

Below you will find three proposal prompts from previous ECPE Writing administrations.

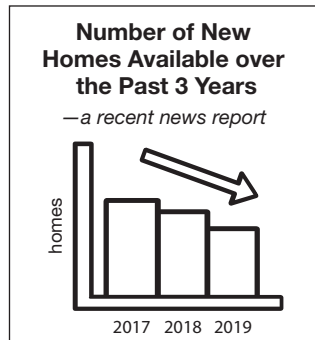
- Respond to each prompt in 45 minutes or less.
- Compare your responses to the ECPE Writing Rating Scale and to the examples provided in this document.
- Evaluate your proposals on each of the four categories mentioned in the writing rating scale: task completion, development, language, and authorial voice.
- As you re-read your proposals and evaluate them based on the writing rating scale, identify your areas of strength and areas to improve in each of those four categories in your email responses.
- Rewrite your proposals to improve your performance on each of these responses.

Proposal - Practice prompt #1



**50
square
meters**

the ideal amount of
urban green space for
each person
—a 2019 study



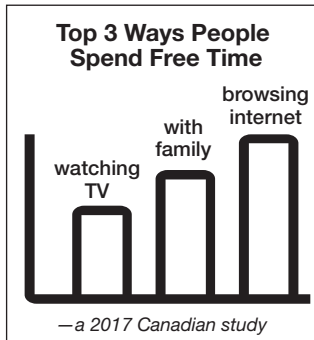

“Promoting
tourism in our city
is my administration’s
top priority.”
—Susan Lee,
Greenville mayor

Task 1: Proposal

The city of Greenville wants to remove a historic structure and build a large apartment building downtown. Some citizens think this is a good idea, but many others do not. Write a **proposal** for the city council that evaluates the different options and share what you think should be done. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Proposal - Practice prompt #2

2.5
hours/day
amount of time adults
spend on leisure
or sports
—a recent survey



“Spending time in nature has been shown to improve both mood and self-esteem.”
—Dr. Ann Walden, psychologist

Task 1: Proposal

The company you work for has decided to offer employees two paid hours per week to spend on hobbies or leisure activities to prioritize well-being. Some employees don't see the value in this idea. Write a **proposal** to the company president evaluating the different courses of action and explain what you think should be done. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Proposal - Practice prompt #3

Reasons Companies Have Difficulty Hiring New Candidates

- Limited technical skills
- Lack of work experience

—a recent survey



“A unique perspective can be just as important as a particular skill set or work experience.”
—Irene Checros, business owner

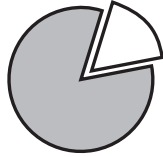
Task 1: Proposal

A local company is thinking of hiring young employees who have recently finished university for management positions. Many employees think this is not a good idea. Write a **proposal** to the president of the company evaluating the different options and explain what you think should be done. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Essays

Example Responses with Commentary

In this section you will find sample responses with commentary from past ECPE administrations for the essay task (Task 2).



1 out of every 5 projects
is unsuccessful due to poor
communication

—a recent study

205
billion

emails sent per day
worldwide

—a 2018 news report

“When we speak,
55% of our message
is communicated through
facial expressions or
body language.”

—Elle Kochis,
psychology professor

Task 2: Essay

Some people believe that being very direct and honest is the best way to communicate. What positive and negative effects might this have? Write an **essay** addressing this topic and giving your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Essay Response #1: Sophia

Communication is a cornerstone of people's lives. A highly debated topic is about whether people should communicate as directly and honestly as they can or prefer to convey their message in an indirect way. Indeed, expressing yourself with brutal honesty presents not only advantages, but also disadvantages.

First and foremost, openly expressing yourself is a way to avoid misunderstanding. What is appreciated in school, the workplace and other social structures is honesty, because it makes communication and cooperation easier. Moreover, being very direct might also help to build a strong relationship foundation. Either way, according to Elle Kochis, a psychology professor, "when we speak, 55% of our message is communicated through facial expressions or body language. This means that whatever we are saying transforms into body language and the person with whom we communicate can detect if we lie or hide something. Therefore, honesty and direct communication is an effective way to avoid awkward situations.

However, formality is needed to some special occasions. For example, should people be very direct with their boss or supervisor in the workplace, they might be characterized as impolite. Even though honesty is recognised as an important virtue, some people are not able to handle it. Additionally, if somebody choose to express himself directly, he has the obligation to select the right words in order to make his position clear. If that does not happen he might end up in a difficult situation because the other person may take offense or misunderstand what he is trying to say. In these cases, honesty impedes fruitful communication.

Taking everything into consideration, I believe that people should adapt to the circumstances. Expressing yourself freely is important but we should find the right words to explain our honesty, always according to the social context in which we are in.

Comments

Task Completion Multiple viewpoints are discussed and considered in depth. The response fulfills the task requirements and successfully integrates one source to support the ideas presented.

Development The response is well organized, and ideas are supported with examples and development.

Language The test taker demonstrates control of simple & most complex structures. Vocabulary is appropriate for the task and level.

Authorial voice The content is original and engaging for the reader.

ECPE Readiness Based on this writing sample, this test taker is prepared to take the ECPE Writing Section.

Essay Response #2: Alexander

It is an undeniable fact that being honest and very direct to a person can be very beneficial according to your communication skills. But is that good for the other person you are talking to? Let us examine this issue more thoroughly.

Some people believe that telling the exact truth about a fact without hesitating is the best way to interact with others. First of all, being honest is something that will give to the others a reason to trust you or ask for your opinion. Moreover, they will feel safe being around you due to the fact that if something you do irritates them, they will tell you to fix it. So you don't have to worry if they are uncomfortable around you or not. To finish with a recent study reveals that 1 out of every 5 projects is unsuccessful due to poor communication. This is probably happening because people are aware of discussing with each other, direct and honest about what they don't like or what they want to change, so they won't unsatisfy anyone. But this is not beneficial for your project and you as well.

However, there are those who believe that it might not be right to be too honest and direct. To begin with many people might find this way of communicating annoying and rude, due to the fact that truth hurts sometimes. Furthermore, according to Elle Kochis, a psychology professor, 55% of our message is communicated through facial expressions or body language when we speak. So we don't have to be very honest about a fact, because the other will understand due to this fact. Last but not least, other people may not want to be around us, being affraid of our judgment. It's true that being completely honest with someone is like judging him, something very irritating and annoying. So not only are we not communicating well, but our image is "destroyed" by this unnessasery honesty.

Taking all the above into consideration, I strongly believe that as the cons outway the pros, we should be careful of the way we are talking to other people because at the end of the day, a good relationship with a person might be interrupted by an uncareful and rude use of truth.

Comments

- Task Completion** The requirements of the task have been mostly fulfilled, with two sides of the topic considered in some depth. Two sources have been included and used to support the ideas presented. The second source has been well integrated and used to develop the argument against being too direct and honest.
- Development** The response begins with an effective introduction which establishes the topic under discussion and moves into exploring first the positive effects and then the negative. The test taker has included some support for the ideas presented, and the third paragraph in particular has a well-developed argument against complete honesty. The test taker has attempted to provide in-depth consideration of the topic and has explored both sides of the topic.
- Language** The test taker has demonstrated control of most simple and some complex structures. Errors are present, but these do not result in misunderstandings. Some vocabulary is repeated (annoying // rude // honest) and is quite simple. The test taker has made an effort to use some sophisticated vocabulary (hesitate // interact // beneficial // judgment), and has done so accurately.
- Authorial voice** Content is mostly original, though there is some reliance on the language used in the prompt. Effort has been made to engage the reader, by providing some interesting arguments and using rhetorical devices.
- ECPE Readiness** Based on this writing sample, this test taker is prepared to take the ECPE Writing Section.

Essay Prompts for Additional Practice

Below you will find three essay prompts from previous ECPE Writing administrations.

- Respond to each prompt in 45 minutes or less.
- Compare your responses to the ECPE Writing Rating Scale and to the examples provided in this document.
- Evaluate your essays on each of the four categories mentioned in the writing rating scale: task completion, development, language, and authorial voice.
- As you re-read your essays and evaluate them based on the writing rating scale, identify your areas of strength and areas to improve in each of those four categories in your email responses.
- Rewrite your essays to improve your performance on each of these responses.

Essay - Practice prompt #1

**50
square
meters**

the ideal amount of
urban green space for
each person
—a 2019 study

**Number of New
Homes Available over
the Past 3 Years**
—a recent news report

Year	Number of New Homes Available
2017	High
2018	Medium
2019	Low

**“Promoting
tourism in our city
is my administration’s
top priority.”**

*—Susan Lee,
Greenville mayor*

Task 2: Essay

Many cities are removing green spaces, such as parks and gardens. What positive and negative impact might this have? Write an **essay** addressing this topic and share your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Essay - Practice prompt #2

Reasons Companies Have Difficulty Hiring New Candidates

1. Limited technical skills
2. Lack of work experience

— a recent survey

Managers Ranked as Good Leaders by Employees

Age Group	Percentage
30 years old and younger	44%
31 years old and older	20%

— a recent workplace study

“A unique perspective can be just as important as a particular skill set or work experience.”

— Irene Checos, business owner

Task 2: Essay

Some people believe that the most important aspect to look for when hiring a new employee is technological skills. What positive and negative effects might this have on businesses? Write an **essay** addressing this topic and share your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Essay - Practice prompt #3

2.5

hours/day amount of time adults spend on leisure or sports

— a recent survey

Top 3 Ways People Spend Free Time

Activity	Relative Frequency
watching TV	Low
with family	Medium
browsing internet	High

— a 2017 Canadian study

“Spending time in nature has been shown to improve both mood and self-esteem.”

— Dr. Ann Walden, psychologist

Task 2: Essay

Some people believe that our free time or leisure time must still be productive. What positive and negative effects might this thinking have? Write an **essay** addressing this topic and give your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

Suggestions for Students

In this next section we have included some suggestions and advice to help students in their preparation for the ECPE Writing Section. The tips provided in this section are applicable regardless of the chosen task (article, proposal, or email). This section also includes some general advice for approaching the ECPE Writing Section on exam day.

Integrating Sources

The best responses are often able to fully integrate the provided sources within their writing, analyzing and expanding on the information given and connecting it to their own ideas and opinion. Sources should be used to enhance the argument, rather than being used to build the argument around. They should be relevant to and supportive of the argument or point being made. This is an important part of academic writing, and a useful skill for those planning to attend university. Including sources to support your ideas can really help enhance a response, by supporting your own ideas and demonstrating a deeper understanding of the topic.

Appropriately referencing sources and acknowledging where they came from is essential for learners to understand and practice, as this avoids plagiarism and promotes academic integrity. Make sure to include the name of the source, and any other details provided, to make it clear that the information has come from somewhere else. Please note that there is no specific standard required for referencing sources used in ECPE Writing.

We have included some activities test takers can complete on their own to practice this important skill.

1. Analyze examples of written texts that include sources as part of the narrative: news articles, academic papers, and reports. Then,
 - a. Identify how the writer refers to sources.
 - b. Identify how the source supports the writer's main idea.
 - c. Identify how the external source is acknowledged.
2. Find paragraphs or written texts that do not include sources. Use the Internet or other means to find supportive evidence that could be included, then rewrite the text including the sources you have found.
3. Choose a news headline, and research 5 different pieces of evidence that could be used to prepare a report on the topic.

Engaging the Audience

Authorial Voice is the rating category that considers the originality of the written context and how engaging the response is for the audience. Higher level responses will often paraphrase the topic into their own words, rather than reusing the language from the prompt itself. This demonstrates to the reader that you have fully understood the prompt and that you are able to utilize sophisticated language to express yourself. It is also important to include ideas other than the information presented in the sources, to ensure the response is original. Some other ways to practice engaging the audience are outlined below.

1. Include rhetorical devices and techniques, such as asking rhetorical questions to stimulate the reader's thinking, or appealing to the reader's emotions or sense of logic to support the points being made in the writing.
2. Include personal examples where appropriate, to help support and develop the ideas presented in the response.
3. Use vivid language with descriptive words and adjectives to paint a clear picture in the reader's mind and to clearly illustrate the points being made.
4. Use language that is appropriate to the intended audience, maintaining a consistent register and tone to suit the topic, purpose, and audience.
5. Vary sentence structure, mixing short and longer sentences, which creates interest for the reader and demonstrates the students' linguistic abilities.
6. Plan an engaging hook, or opening (e.g., a thought-provoking question or interesting anecdote) that is relevant to the topic and makes the reader think about their own experience on it.
7. Write a strong and effective conclusion, ending with a thought-provoking statement or a call to action, when appropriate.

General ECPE Writing Advice

Read a variety of different types of text frequently, including news and current events. This will help you to generate ideas in your exam, as you can learn from the examples you read. You can also analyze these texts for language, content, integration of sources, and organization of ideas.

Practice thinking about pros and cons of, or coming up with a solution to, any topic you read about, so you can get used to coming up with ideas quickly.

Expand your vocabulary: Keep a vocabulary notebook and write down new words whenever you come across them. Make a note of the meaning, collocations, and common uses. Make sure to use the new words the next time you write (or speak) in English to get practice using them correctly. ECPE certifies English at an advanced level, and you are expected to demonstrate your ability to use sophisticated vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. Pick your words carefully, and ensure you fully understand their meaning so you don't confuse the reader.

Pay attention to the audience and use the appropriate register. Your response should be addressed to the audience stated in the prompt, and your chosen language should reflect that.

Practice timed writing by hand. You have 45 minutes to complete one writing task and should practice writing a well-developed response within that time. It is important that you get used to writing your responses by hand so you don't get tired during the exam.

Keep building your language skills in general as outlined already, and you will be in a good position to write an excellent response for ECPE!

The only way to get better at writing is to write. Keep practicing frequently and seek feedback from your teacher or other English speakers. Take the time to understand the ECPE Writing Rating Scale and practice self-assessment by giving yourself a score from the scale and comparing your own work to the examples in this booklet to see where you have room for improvement. Edit and revise your work based on feedback; don't just read the feedback and forget about it. Making changes will help you see how your work can be improved, and you will be less likely to make the same mistakes next time.

Good luck on ECPE!