

6 Scores, Annotations and Comments – Training Practice 1

6 Training Practice 1 Annotations

Training Practice 1 Annotations			
Sample #/ Prompt	Score	first sentence	Annotations
1 Advertising	3	<i>I personally am a little fed up with all the</i>	Thesis or main idea shows some support and relevant detail. Some ideas not well-stated.
2 Internet	2	<i>The Internet is becoming more and more a part of</i>	Unfocused. Requires inference.
3 Internet	1	<i>In my opinion The Internet is not bringing people</i>	Minimal response to task.
4 Scientific Inventions	2	<i>A good invention to me would be</i>	Contains a thesis or main idea with little support. Distracting errors.
5 Exercise	2	<i>My topic i'm writing about today is</i>	Contains a thesis or main idea with little support.
6 Exercise	4	<i>Exercise is essential to good health because it offers</i>	Thesis or main idea is clearly stated and developed with relevant details and examples.
7 Employment	3	<i>There are three skills I think are most important</i>	Some ideas not well-stated.
8 Exercise	2	<i>I think there are some ways can help</i>	Many ideas not well-stated.
9 Scientific Inventions	3	<i>Washing machines, what can one say</i>	Thesis or main idea shows some support and relevant detail.

6 Training Practice 1 Comments

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 1

Score: 3

This essay seems to answer the question: *Do you have a negative or positive response to advertising?* However, the prompt specifically asks if advertising influences the writer's *purchasing decisions*. The writer doesn't respond to the prompt until the third paragraph, where we find *I will research ... then I might consider purchasing*. Without this mention of purchasing, we could only infer that advertising negatively influences the writer's purchasing decisions, and

we would score the essay as a 2. However, since there is some relation to the prompt and inference isn't required, it can be considered for a score of 3.

Because so much of the essay is devoted to the writer's general feelings about advertisements rather than purchasing decisions, we can only credit it with some support and relevant detail in relation to the prompt.

Also, some ideas are not well-stated; there are run-ons, errors in agreement, and errors in mechanics. However, these errors generally do not interfere with the reader's understanding.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 2

Score: 2

This essay attempts to address the prompt and does contain a relevant thesis statement. However, the writing offers little support for the thesis, is unfocused, and has errors in grammar and mechanics that interfere with the reader's understanding. These characteristics result in a score of 2.

The first paragraph is an unnecessary restatement of the prompt. The essay really begins in the second paragraph with the thesis statement. However, the rest of the paragraph, rather than supporting the thesis statement, actually seems to contradict it. For example, wouldn't people be closer if they met more often rather than simply receiving emails? Perhaps the writer means that e-mails improve communications because they are more efficient, but this is an inference. The last sentence of the paragraph is a *non sequitur*. The last sentence does not smoothly follow or support the line of reasoning in the paragraph, and therefore requires inference. The third and fourth paragraphs veer off into topics unrelated to the thesis, making the essay unfocused. The writer mentions in passing that the Internet can help in searching for loved ones, but for the most part, these two paragraphs list unrelated pros and cons of technology. In addition, many ideas are not well-stated.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 3

Score: 1

In this very short paragraph, the writer states a thesis and provides several statements in support of it. The paragraph contains more than 75 words, so it can be scored, but so little is written that it receives a score of 1 as a minimal response to the task.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 4

Score: 2

Without knowledge of the prompt, a reader may be confused as to the writer's purpose. Most likely the writer means that the automobile is a good *example* of an invention that has had an impact on society, but the thesis as stated is contradictory: The automobile is a good invention... it is good and bad. At this point, it seems likely that the subject of the essay will be the positive and negatives of the automobile; however, this requires inference.

The essay consists of a short paragraph. At first glance, a scorer may suspect that there is not enough written for an adequate response. Careful reading confirms this and also reveals distracting errors in mechanics.

This response is more than minimal, but it is too brief to adequately support the thesis, so it receives a score of 2. The distracting errors in mechanics and lack of richness in expression further confirm that 2 is the correct score.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 5

Score: 2

In many ways, this essay seems superior to Training Practice 1, Sample 4 which received a score of 2. The topic is clearly stated and there is a basic organizational structure: three paragraphs each focus on a main idea. The ideas are clear and no inference is required. However, there is very little support and distracting errors in grammar and mechanics.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 6

Score: 4

This is an effective response that addresses all issues raised by the prompt about exercise. The main ideas are clearly stated and developed with relevant details and examples.

The first paragraph explains the benefits of exercise and supports the main idea that is woven throughout the essay: people don't exercise because they don't know about the benefits. In the third paragraph, it logically follows that the way to get people to exercise is to make them aware of these benefits.

The fourth paragraph offers practical suggestions to stay healthy. It continues the theme that understanding the benefits of exercise encourages action; employees can check with their employer to see if they have special health programs; employers should consider the benefits of supporting the overall health of their employees.

The final paragraph restates the main idea of the essay, adds practical suggestions for implementing a personal program, and ends on an encouraging, upbeat note.

With so many positive qualities, why has this essay received a score of 4 rather than 5? One reason is the number of errors in grammar and mechanics. They do not interfere with understanding, but they are noticeable. Also, although there is variety and richness of expression, the language is not exceptionally expressive. The style is effective but not distinctive.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 7

Score: 3

This response adequately addresses the prompt on employment. It cannot be scored as effective because some ideas are not well-stated. Throughout the essay, there are minor errors in mechanics that do not interfere with understanding.

The first and second paragraphs contain a serious word choice error: *punctuation* for *punctuality*. The reader is perhaps thinking that the writer has misspelled the word *punctuation* and will talk about the importance of presentable business correspondence. Very quickly, we realize that the writer means *punctuality* (...being on time shows that...) and the preceding sentences make sense.

Other word choices are not errors but are imprecise. In the third paragraph, the meaning of *performance* is ambiguous. Judging from the example of a young man who did only what he was told to do, *initiative* would have been a better word choice. Again in the fourth paragraph, *determination* is used ambiguously. It might have been clarified if the writer had used the word *procrastination* as a contrast.

The essay has many positive qualities. It is well-organized, with an introduction that maps out the structure to follow. Each of the three suggestions for securing or keeping employment is accorded its own paragraph, and each paragraph sticks to its topic. The writer's attempts at complex sentence structure sometimes lead to errors in grammar and mechanics, but these errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding. However, as a result of the various errors, some ideas are not well-stated, and thus the response is scored as a 3.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 8

Score: 2

In this essay, the writer's attempt to address the prompt about exercise is weak. The response has positive qualities, notably organization: the introduction states a thesis, each paragraph focuses on one sub-topic, and there's a conclusion. Although the writer knows how to organize an essay, he or she lacks the English language skills necessary to express ideas clearly. There are more than "some" errors, and they are not minor. As a result, many ideas are not well-stated, and the essay is scored as a 2.

Comments – Training Practice 1 / Sample 9

Score: 3

This essay is an adequate response to the prompt on scientific inventions. It has a thesis that shows some support and relevant detail; errors in mechanics are minor.

There are no word choice errors, and there is some variety and richness of expression (e.g., *dragging your clothes*, *all living creatures*).

The claim that the washing machine has had an impact on our society is not adequately supported. A more detailed discussion of the time and effort required by manual laundering would be one way to strengthen the essay.

Scored holistically, this essay is a 3.

Before proceeding to Training Practice 2, review your scoring for Training Practice 1.

Are you scoring too high or too low?

Are you giving more weight to one aspect of the essays or scoring analytically rather than holistically?

Do you need to review the rubric and scoring guidelines?