

OSSLT MSIP Prep

Day 4

Wednesday March 28, 2012

How to Write a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Content:

- Read the topic question and decide what your position you will take in your response.
- Use the Rough Notes section to form an outline (yes, your English teachers have always been right about this!)

How to Write a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Style:

- Write in the first person (eg. In my opinion, I think that...) because you are supposed to be expressing YOUR opinion.
- Avoid slang because the teacher who is marking this may not know what you are talking about.
- Correct all spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors because they count in your evaluation.
- Show where your paragraphs begin and end by using indentation or by skipping a line between paragraphs.

How to Write a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Format:

Introductory Paragraph

- State your opinion clearly
- Refer to the topic
- 2-3 sentences

How to Write a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Body Paragraph(s)

- Give at least 3 different reasons for your opinion.
- Your reasons need at least 1 supporting detail (proof, facts, examples, etc.) EACH (that's at least 2 in total).
- If you have more than two reasons or more than 2 supporting details for each of your reasons, consider giving each reason its own paragraph.
- 5-7 sentences (Point/ Proof / Explanation)

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Concluding Paragraph

- Summarize your opinion and restate your reasons (using different words)
- 2-3 sentences

Writing Practice: Series Paragraphs

- Complete the writing task on page 2 of booklet 2

Topic:

“Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?”

Teacher Insights –

The following 3 slides will help the students organize the rough work and plan the template for the essay.

Rough Notes: Series Paragraph

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

Task: Write a minimum of three paragraphs expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).

Purpose and Audience: an adult who is interested in your opinion

Length: The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Topic: Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Write your series of paragraphs on the lines provided on the following two pages.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

- Use a concept map organize your thoughts for writing
- Ensure you include your 3 points and proofs and explanations in this section.

Template: Template: Series Paragraph

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Introduction : 2-3 sentences

1st Body Paragraph : 5-7 sentences

2nd Body paragraph: 5-7 sentences

Continue writing your series of paragraphs on the next page.

Template: Template: Series Paragraph

3rd Body Paragraph : 5-7 sentences

Conclusion : 2-3 sentences

End of Worksheet V6. Continue to Worksheet V6.

Mark Rationale for Series Paragraphs

Code	Descriptor
Blank	The pages are blank with nothing written or drawn in the space provided.
Illegible	The response is illegible, or irrelevant to the prompt.
Off topic	The response is off topic.
Code 10	The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion. OR The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.
Code 20	The response is related to the prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion. OR The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.
Code 30	The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connection of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.

Mark Rationale for Codes 40-60

Code 40	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details, however only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.
Code 50	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.
Code 60	The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.

Series Paragraph Answers: Code 30

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Participation in extracurricular activities are important part of secondary school life because it is a way to meet new people, to make some new friends. It can be a lot of fun, and it definitely keeps you out of trouble. Extracurricular activities are a great way to get out of class a lot of the time. It is also a great way to become a lot better at what ever extracurricular event that you are participating in. Extracurricular activities are just an amazing way to have

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 30 cont'd

are just an amazing way to have fun and just to fully experience high school. It has been proven that kids that participate in a fair amount of extracurricular activities are more likely to stay out of drugs, smoking, and other mischief.

Annotation:

The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. (Participation in extracurricular activities are important part of secondary school life). Reasons are listed but are not developed (It is a way to meet new people. To make some new friends. It can be a lot of fun and it definitely keeps you out of trouble). Lapses in organization distract.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 40

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

In my own personal opinion having extracurricular involvement is not important for secondary student. But is a good idea to be involved in it if its right for that particular student.

One reason why I think extracurricular activities aren't necessary is because not all students are able to participate in these types of activities with out their personal schooling is effected. This could happen either due to incomplete homework, missed attendance, because of functions and so forth.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 40 cont'd

My second reason is because majority of teenagers in this day and age aren't interested in taking up a hobby or a sport, unless they have previously done so in past years. Most teens want to hang out with friends, and play video games usually.

In a different view sometimes it isn't bad for students to interact in extracurricular activities because it is healthy and active, and again it all just depends on the type of student.

So overall I feel that extracurricular

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 40 cont'd

activity involvement is unnecessary but useful for health reasons.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details (In my own personal opinion having extracurricular involvement is not important for secondary student. But is a good idea to be involved in it if its right for that particular student). There are sufficient supporting details; however, only some are specific (incomplete homework, missed attendance). The organization is mechanical (One reason, My second reason). There is an introduction, body and conclusion.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 50

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Participation in extracurricular activities are not an important part of secondary school life. The following are reasons why I believe this.

The first reason why I believe this is because everyone tells you you'll get to meet ~~new~~ so many people when in reality you probably already know most of them. You could meet people thru friends you already have, class, your locker partner or just going up and talking to them. Every extracurricular activity says "you'll get to meet so many new and exciting people" your basically just meeting people you already know.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 50 cont'd

The second reason is that it could be very costly. For some activities you have to pay for a uniform, insurance, equipment, busing money (money to pay for a bus) tournament and registration. When you add it all up it could end up costing over two hundred dollars. Some people just can't afford that.

The third reason why extra curricular activities are not an important part of secondary school life is because they don't really help your grades.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 50 cont'd

And you could have to miss school which really won't help. In order to join and stay in an extra curricular you have to maintain good grades and do your homework and assignments. Well when you have practice 4 times a week after school for almost two hours this could be very difficult.

Extracurricular activities may be fun and all but they are not an important part of a secondary school life.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion (Participation in extracurricular activities are not an important part of secondary school life) is developed with sufficient specific supporting details (everyone tells you you'll get to meet so many people when in reality you probably already know most of them, it could be very costly, they don't really help your grades). Reasons are developed with specific examples and explanations (meet people thru friends, uniform, insurance, equipment, have to miss school).

The organization is logical. There is an introduction, body and conclusion.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 60

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities in high school have greater advantages than those who do not, which is why participation in these activities is significant. Extracurricular activities such as sports, photography groups or book clubs are few of the many groups that can enhance a student's academic performance. It is important that a high school student joins an extracurricular activity to develop cooperation skills, organizational skills and to increase chances of receiving academic rewards.

Students who take part in book clubs or sports develop skills that allow them to work well with others. They learn skills that may not be taught at home or in the classroom. For instance a person who plays volleyball is able to negotiate, cooperate, compromise, share and socialize more confidently than one who is not used to stepping outside of their comfort zone. Extracurricular activities provide a way for young teens to get to know each other and improve their socializing skills to ultimately enhance their secondary school experience.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 60 cont'd

Not only do teens develop skills in interaction but they also improve their organizational skills. A student who is able to finish their homework and make practice on time is a student who can prioritize, set goals and manage their time. These qualities are highly beneficial to the student's future when it comes to finding their career path which is why mastering these attitudes in high school is important. Extracurricular activities teach a student how to excel in their particular activity and how to

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 60 cont'd

use those skills in the classroom. If these tasks are practised well they will become good habits that can increase their chances of acceptance into a college or university of their choice.

Students who have experience in extracurricular activities have more options when it comes down to applying for college, university and for scholarships. For example a student who gets good grades and is able to juggle a sport or club is more likely to possess the qualities needed in obtaining a scholarship that specializes in that sport or club in comparison to a student who did not have the same experience. Ultimately universities want to see that you put effort into maintaining good grades but also that you went the extra mile to do your best.

Series Paragraphs Answers: Code 60 cont'd

As a result students who enhance their skills in communication and organization are more likely to receive a greater benefit such as getting accepted into an elite university or saving money by receiving a scholarship. Even after university and college the skills achieved from joining these activities will benefit in the long run because after all the more effort and hard work you put into something, the greater the award.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (expand their social groups, develop positive personality traits). Reasons are developed with examples and explanations (more understanding occurs, teamwork, determination, optimism).

The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The third body paragraph is linked to the first body paragraph (because teenagers use cellphones to contact friends in the first place).

The conclusion returns to the question of need emphasized in the introduction and threaded throughout the response.



Closing Points

- *Thanks very much for participating in the Literacy Test preparation activities.*
- *You are now allowed to take your booklets home with you and review your work, as well as tackle some of the tasks we did not complete together.*



Closing Points

- **Good luck tomorrow!**
- *Be sure to get a good night's rest and eat a good breakfast as both will improve your performance on the test.*
- **Arrive on time, as you WILL NOT be given extra time if you arrive late.**