C2- Formal & Semi-formal Writing

Read the writing samples. Click on the correct type.

Type: | Article | Letter | Report | Review

The best journey of my life

Back in the 20th century, flying was a luxury mostly out of reach for the average Joe while nowadays it is quite possibly the cheapest and most common form of long-haul travel. However, with all the security measures and long waiting times at the airport it begs the question if buses or trains aren't as convenient if not even more pleasant an option as planes. My journey along the river Rhine would definitely suggest that the answer is yes.

When I was at university I used to take the train for the 5-hour ride to visit my parents in the south of Germany. Once I was forced to take the slightly longer route along the river Rhine and I can't even tell you how happy I am that I did it! Not only did the journey itself go really smoothly, but I also got to fully take in the stunningly beautiful scenery along the way with the river meandering past all these small towns famous for their wine and their architecture. It was a truly scenic route that kept my eyes glued to the window, something rather unusual when flying.

1

For me, going on this journey was a truly gratifying experience and I hope this anecdote will serve as a reminder for you to slow things down from time to time and to enjoy the process of travelling instead of being too focussed on just reaching your destination. I promise life isn't too short

Choose the correct missing paragraph to complete the writing samples.

a

Secondly, the opening of a new shopping centre would create a lot of traffic congestion in the area. This could lead to a possible increase in pollution.

On a more positive note, the new development would be an excellent opportunity to create more needed jobs in the area. This, of course, would be very much welcome, especially in the present climate.

b

Apart from the breath-taking views, I have to say that I'd never arrived at a destination more relaxed than when I'd set off. Without the typical airport security checks and periods of simply sitting around and waiting I found myself actually enjoying the experience and in the end, I think I wouldn't even have been able to reach my destination faster by plane either

c

Despite the environment in which the children live nowadays has changed considerably since 1930s, children will always be children and if the book has appealed to so many young generations since it was published, I believe it will retain its impact. It can be more, even more relevant today, when children are presented with things to play, instead of inventing games themselves. Reading the book could definitely wake up their innate creativity.

d

What are the students views?

The majority feel that it is an immoral way of achieving a goal and it is wrong to break the rules. Several students quoted "you are not cheating the teacher or the school, you are actually cheating yourself. Many viewed it as embarrassing and shameful. While a handful of cheaters thought that they were being clever!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Type: Article Letter Report Review

One of my favourite childhood books is the 'Six Bullerby Children' written by Astrid Lindergren, a famous Swedish author. The story is set in a three-farm remote village of Bullerby in Sweden. The narrator is a seven-year-old girl, Lisa who, with her parents and two older brothers – Lasse and Bosse, lives in one of the houses. Lisa describes the daily life of the children in Bullerby which – contrary to what one might think when imagining life in a small, remote village – is far from boring. The children have plenty of funny ideas, which often lead to amusing adventures.

Although the book was included in the compulsory school literature when I was a child (which often meant long, boring reads), I have truly enjoyed the adventures of Lisa and her friends. Despite very limited resources (the story is set in 1930s when children did not have many toys, not to mention a TV or video games!) the children always come up with exciting games or things to play with. This is something I admired and wished I could do when reading the book.

Another thing which appealed to me as a child was the natural childlike way in which Lisa (or Astrid Lindgren, the author) could tell the story connecting effortlessly with the young readers.

2

'Six Bullerby Children' could, however, also be more relevant to adults who would like to either 'return' to their childhood for a little while, or be able to connect with their own children a bit better.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Type: Article letter Report Review

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to highlight reasons why students cheat in exams and their views on the subject. Also what would be considered a 'fitting punishment' for cheating and what could be done to discourage this behaviour in the future..

Why do students cheat?

Some students cheat because they're busy or lazy and want to get good grades without putting in the effort. Others might feel that they can't pass without cheating.

Another reason is pressure from parents to get good grades and be 'top of the class'. Some students are overloaded with extra activities outside school and are just too exhausted and burnt out; so, to avoid disappointing their parents they choose to cheat instead. It could also be a case of a student being sick or upset about something the night before the exam.

3

What would be a 'fitting punishment'?

In the case of a student cheating, the results should be withheld and no final certificate should beissued initially. The candidate should be informed and asked to give a statement. All the information should be carefully considered by whoever is responsible for the exam administration. Before a student is disqualified, a procedure should be designed to ensure that all decisions are consistent, fair and based on the fullest information available.

What can be done to discourage cheating?

It is recommended that students be encouraged to talk to a teacher if they are facing any problems managing their studies. We can give positive guidance for students and parents alike on the importance of a healthy balance betWeen school, study and out of school activities.

Choosing to play fair and honest can help students to succeed and feel proud!

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Type: Article Letter Report Review

Dear Editor,
After reading your article regarding the plans to develop a local park near my home and build a supermarket and parking lot I have decided to write you a letter expressing my opinion on this matter. I would also like to take the opportunity to address the likely effects that this development will have on the local community in the short and the long term.

Firstly, much criticism has been expressed by several environmentalists at the prospect of the trees that will be cleared away to make room for the proposed shopping centre and parking lot. The trees are a safe and natural habitat for a large variety of wildlife. There have been several sightings of rare birds in the area and this could be a huge threat to their survival. feel that this is a serious issue that should most definitely be addressed and taken into consideration. A possible solution needs to be put forward and reviewed

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Finally, although the shopping centre will present some challenges, I feel that if this can be overcome by presenting some reasonable solutions, then the new development will be more than welcome by the local residents.

Yours faithfully,

Member of the local community

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