Assessment of Written English (AWE)

Student Writing Samples

English 1A Placement

Prompt: No experience can affect a person as much as travelling to a new place. From visiting a new part of town, a different state, or an entirely new country, travel can make us more aware of the world. Describe a place you have visited and the effect it has had on you. What did the experience add to your life?

Throughout my life I have been passionate about many things, but the thing that I'm most passionate about is traveling. Traveling has opened me up to new experiences and allowed me to learn about different cultures, languages, and how people live. Traveling has really made me become into a more open-minded person. I've learned to be thankful for what I have and not to take things for granted.

Last Summer I went to Pakistan to visit my relatives. Over there I saw many fascinating things that don't happen here in the U.S. Milk is delivered by bike to almost every house in a city called Karachi in Pakistan. Even though they have cars in Pakistan, they still deliver by bike. Seeing this and experiencing this made me realize how different things are in Pakistan. In addition to milk being delivered by bike, neighbors also cook for each other and everything is home made. I think that it's a wonderful and unique
concept that doesn't happen often in the US. After coming back from Pakistan I became so open-minded to the ideas and wondered why the US doesn't do these old traditions anymore.

While in Pakistan I also got to see the different aspects of culture. I realized that the people of Karachi were into making dresses, making food, and listened to different music. Every store or mall I went to there was different products being sold and different languages being spoken. I explored many stores and malls throughout Karachi and was amazed at the diversity in everything. While shopping I learned more words in Urdu, one of the languages spoken in Karachi and throughout Pakistan. It was nice to experience the culture of Karachi and being able to truly enjoy it.

Besides experiencing new things and learning about the aspects of culture, I also saw and learned how people lived on a daily basis. Many people in Karachi go without water and electricity for many days. Majority of the people in Karachi are poor and cannot afford basic necessities. I can relate to all this while in Pakistan because I went without electricity and had a shortage of water for some periods of time. After experiencing this it made me thankful that I have all my basic necessities back in the US. This experience also allowed me to see what people go through every day. Without traveling I wouldn’t have able to experience this.

Traveling has allowed me to become a more open-minde person and made me realize a all of the blessings that I have. From learning languages to taking part in the Pakistani culture, I have learned that traveling is something that I’m truly passionate about.
Prompt: Is lying part of human nature, or is it something that only a few people do? Human beings may lie to make themselves look more knowledgeable, to escape blame, or to make a story sound better. Why do you think people lie, and what problems can lies create? In your response explain why people lie and the problems or issues a lie may create.

The truth is something many people hold sacred. Although many people hold it sacred, the truth goes often untold, or is altered in some way. How it is altered make’s a difference in any story, confession, or statement. Some people only leave a cournel of truth, and some only take out the most miniscule details. Regardless of the degree, everyone exaggerates. It is human nature to sound more interesting, or to intensify something.

Everybody exaggerates their life when telling about it, to seem more interesting. Sometimes it comes back to haunt you later, or you get caught up in a lie. These things happen when you lie and exaggerate to or about the wrong person. However, you shouldn’t lie to people whom you consult with often to seem more interesting. Doing this will eventually lead to struggles later on. Moving to a different scenario, when somebody lies about something to a person whom actually knows the details, a multitude of problems arise! Aside from looking foolish, this person is now not trustworthy with what they say.

Even if you know when to lie, that’s not an excuse for the lie. Obviously everybody should be truthful in what they say; however, everybody loves a good story. If you must exaggerate, then it should only be about
small details such as color. You can exaggerate the size of something as long as it still lies in a general size range. The smaller details have excuses for being changed, such as you simply forgot the completely accurate size or color.

Everybody has exaggerated about something in their lives, and that’s perfectly acceptable. At the other end of this lie, I’m sure there was a happily amused soul listening for the next bizarre detail. Exaggerations are an important part of life, as they help to keep it fun and entertaining. Although they are important, they are not necessary for some people. Those people are the one’s who get caught in their lie. The tool of the exaggeration is dire to any storyteller, but must always be used in the right way, and at the right time.

**English 1A Placement**

Prompt: When we are small, we expect our lives will never change, but as life goes on, upsetting changes occur, and out of the seemingly negative changes, positives can occur. Examples include a moving to a new school, problems within the family, or the loss of a loved one. Explain a negative change you experienced that turned into a positive change, and discuss the effects on you and perhaps others as well. How has this experience changed you as a person?

No one considers their parents’ divorce as a positive change in their life. At first, I didn’t think it was something good either. However, as time
went on, I began to see myself in healthier relationships with my mom and dad.

The announcement of the divorce was sudden but I had sort of expected it. The three years previous to the end of my parents’ marriage were stale and silent. My mom and dad didn’t talk to each other or to us (my sisters and I) about important things that needed to be discussed. My mother was battling with severe depression and my father couldn’t understand what she was dealing with. My two older sisters had tension in their relationship, as well in their relationships with me. I was also battling with severe depression and decided to leave the university that I was attending for three years. In a sense, the family was already in shambles. I had watched it slowly decay in front of me and I felt helpless to stop it.

My dad asked for a divorce a week before Christmas in 2014. My sisters and I were devastated and my mom was heartbroken. We decided to try to talk about it on Christmas Day but to no avail. The lack of communication in the family made the situation words. Everyone was pointing fingers at one another and denying claims laid upon another. During this time I had sat in my chair and cried silently. I hated to see that my family was this broken.

My initial reaction was anger. I couldn’t understand why my dad could divorce my mom. I couldn’t understand why he didn’t want to try to make things better. I was already hurting from my own poisons and this made it no better. I didn’t want to look at my dad or spend any time with him as I did before. However, as time went on, I slowly began to see the light that came from this sad situation.
I started to notice changes in my parents’ behavior and demeanors once they had separated and moved into separate houses. My mother decided that she wasn’t going to let the divorce or her depression get the best of her. She was starting to partake in activities that I hadn’t seen her do in several years, such as scrapbooking. My father was beginning to live a healthier lifestyle. He started to eat more fruit and less chips. He started going to yoga. I took this as an opportunity to really open up to them.

Before the divorce, I very rarely went to my parents for advice or comfort. I didn’t see myself having that type of relationship with them. I didn’t trust them with my feelings. But their separation caused them to show their true feelings to one another and with the rest of us (my sisters and I). I figure if they can do that, perhaps I should too.

It was a little awkward at first. I didn’t know how to go up to them and say what I wanted to say. It became easier as time went on though. We began to have a better understanding of each other. With that, it became easier to communicate and talk about our problems. I began to see them as more than just parental figures. In the end, my parents weren’t the only ones becoming happier. I was becoming happier as well.

It’s not right to say divorces are good things. But I wouldn’t say they’re entirely bad either. Sometimes it takes a huge change in our lives to heal wounds and solve internal or external issues. It may have hurt in the beginning, but now I can see the positives in my parents’ divorce. Though I wish some things had stayed the same, I’m more grateful for my parents’ happiness and my own. Perhaps all we needed was a change.
Prompt: Most people work hard for the money they have, so they think carefully before they spend their money. Explain what you think is the most important thing people should spend their money on.

Why is this important?

The world as we know it today is focused primarily upon obtaining and sustaining currency. Very few things in our lives are not directly affected by money. Thus the beauty of living is using our resources, for both mutual and personal gain. Of course, types of “gain” vary from person to person.

The most important thing people should spend their money on is a person’s biased opinion. One man may believe his money is best spent on his family’s health and happiness, while another may believe filling the tank of his brand new Ferrari is why he wakes up for work every morning. Too many variables arise from such a question. But the question does ask for my own biased opinion.

Very few things in my life make me more happy and content then family health, happiness, and well-being. Friends, as well, deserve to be happy. Waking up knowing the closest things you hold dear in your life are happy and content, is worth more than any pay check. Family and friends above all else. In the end, they are all that really matter, in my biased opinion.
**English 67 Placement**

Prompt: *Most people work hard for the money they have, so they think carefully before they spend their money. Explain what you think is the most important thing people should spend their money on. Why is this important?*

*Working hard is what gets us paid good money. Nothing is free so in order to achieve our goals or set our priority’s we must pay for it. Priority’s can differentiate from person to person. Some may have children others may simply be unemployed.*

*The fact being people should spend their money on what they need rather than what they want. That goes for young adults who need to pay for school or bills and other expenses. Others may have big goals and not entitled to any huge responsibilities or obligations such as children, or mortgage payments. Leaving them a great deal of space to focus. For example this may be someone who wants to pursue a career as an audio editor or videographer. They would spend a great deal of time at a studio, in a session, or at home on a computer working on an upcoming project. This person’s money would tend to a lot of equipment needed to get that big sound, or crisp recording they always dreamed of.*

*Bottom line, people should be passionate rather than foolish about the decisions they make. If you are passionate about your goals then money can only dictate what you’ve earned and if you are serious about your priority’s then money can only tend to the things you love an need to take care of.*
LERN 81 Placement

Prompt: Most people work hard for the money they have, so they think carefully before they spend their money. Explain what you think is the most important thing people should spend their money on.

Why is this important?

I think many people should spend their money on things that they are going to use or need. Some people spend their money on things they will never use or need for an example buying new clothes on every paycheck or eating out 2 to 3 times a day or even spending money on video games or gameboy sistoms. I think that you should always put your money on something that you know you won’t spend it like, the bank, have your mother open up a savings account for you. That will help you in many ways like help you in college to buy yourself books, school supplys, pay for classes that you wan’t to take. That way you don’t have to ever get student lones or financhal ade you could just pay for it right out of your own money then you will never probably have to have bills from school.

Also maybe if you don’t want to go to school there are many other things you could buy like a car everybody always needs a care and if you have enough money you might be able to buy a car cash and have no payments, Than you don’t have to worry about any bills that will probably give you bad credit to buy a house or get lones on day in life.

So thats why working hard and saving your money can help you in the future. So you should always think before spending your money on new cloths, eating out ever day or even buy video games that you will get bord of.
Prompt: Most people have wished for something that they would like to come true. Describe a wish that you have, then explain in detail what you think might happen if that wish were to come true.

When it comes to wish, most people will think about something they want, but they couldn’t get! When I was child, I wish I could have a car! Because I was very interested in cars, so I wish I had one to drive when I grown up. After that, I was interested in war. I was always playing “War Game” on internet with my friends. I wished I became a general. Now, I wish I could be going to university soon. When I came to America as a student graduate from high school, I thought the most urget thing to do is to choose a college and continue studying. This is the first step and the most important step. I have visited many websites about college and asked many friends for advice. I thought the Mt. SAC was the best college for me. Because it have more than 200 degree, and your units could transfare to university. That I could save a lot of time. In order to make sure, one day I went to Mt. SAC. I was surprised by such many students that the parking lots was nearly full. The campus was very big and the facilities was new. In addicent, Mt. SAC had a lot of very profesenal staff. They have gave me a lot of helpful information. Therefore, I was choosing Mt. SAC I thought my desic--- is correcet. My wish will come true.
AmLa 42W Placement

Prompt: We all have people who have influenced our lives. It could be a teacher, a friend, a relative, a hero, or a stranger. Write about someone who has influenced your life. Was the influence positive or negative? How has your life changed as a result of this person’s influence?

The most important person in my life. Five years ago, I met my husband—Sunny in the church. That year I just came to United States. I felt live in America is very difficult. I worried about looking for a job, find a house, and a lot of things. I also missed my son who still in China. I never felt happy even I wanted to back to China.

Sunny was a happy man. He was helpful and friendly. He told me a lot of things I never heard. He told me there is a father in haven, that is God. God made everythings include people. We are all his children. God loves everyone and wish us happy, he even gave us his son to safed our livie’s. Juses dies for us. We don’t need worried anything, only believed him and out everythings to God’s hand. I discovered everyone in church is kind and they liked to help others. Since I went to church and met my husband, I became a happy woman. Suny helped me find a job and tought me drive the car, rent an apartment, and told me his experience in U.S. I was very thanks him.
AmLa 41W Placement

Prompt: We all have people who have influenced our lives. It could be a teacher, a friend, a relative, a hero, or a stranger. Write about someone who has influenced your life. Was the influence positive or negative? How has your life changed as a result of this person’s influence?

The person whom is my mother. In the age before 24th. I am consentry on my study. My school learning project social life in the teenage. I can not wait to grow up. Before the age I do not even remember what was I talked to her or was I spend the time with her. The time past and it past fast. At the age 30th. I have a baby girl. I need to work for living. After eight hours working, sometimes overtime stay late, I am tires. I am out of pation. My home nothing is in order. The daily meal, the to go food always!

One day, I call my mom. She packed right away while she hung up the phone. She move to my home take care my baby girl, give her bath, play with her, sing the songs, fit her, prepare the daily meals, keep house clean every day when I got home. I felt the worm and relax. I don’t need to worry anything. Because it has been take care by my mom.

On her face with smile always, she talk slow and softly. You can feel her kindness, she tread every one nice and gental.

I am a talk fast, move fast, out of pation if the poeper does not respond quick. So, sometimes I will look at her and think. Tell myself. She is the idol. She give pooper a hand when they needed. No matter who, when, where, slow down your steps, be pation to the people.
After years, I have change a lot learning from my mother. You will see any smile on the face thoughtful to the people. No more TV food in the daily meal. My home is warm and sweet since she became one of the member.

ESL Placement

Prompt: We have all experienced changes in our lives. These changes could be positive or negative. Write about a change you have experienced. Are you pleased with the way you handled it or could you have handled it differently?

I had a change on my life, that was in 1988 went my First boy born a will never Forget how I Feel, I Feel so exsiting and scare, because I did not that much how to take care a baby. But I think is a very nice experience and exsiting, that was a very nise change on my life I wil never Forget that moment.

It been severel years already but I still remember that exseting day. I am very happy with my two boys. I wouldt done any thing different because that experience is unusual.