

Example 6: controversial essay

Advanced level

Written work

MYP year: 5

Criterion	A	B	C	D	E
Level achieved	–	–	5	4	–

Background

Students were asked to write a 300-word essay on one of four controversial topics dealing with parent–child relationships:

- Topic 1: Should parents discipline young children differently than older ones?
- Topic 2: How should parents treat the issue of cigarette or drug smoking?
- Topic 3: Do children need to learn from their own experiences?
- Topic 4: What do parents need to do to raise a well adjusted child?

The instructions mentioned that the essay had to have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The thesis statement, the topic sentences, and the transition words had to be highlighted. The students had to indicate the number of words their text contained at the end of the essay.

They had two class periods each lasting 60 minutes to complete the task, under teacher supervision, during which students had to write a first draft, edit it then write the final copy in ink. The students were given an additional 30 minutes to “polish” their final drafts. The work was collected by the teacher at the end of each period and redistributed at the start of the next.

The students could use a dictionary, a thesaurus, and the notes *Writing Guidelines* supplied in class during the year. No penalty was applied for students who went over the 300-word limit.

The student whose work is represented here chose topic 4.

Assessment

Criterion C: writing—message and organization

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
5–6	<p>The student communicates most information with ease, though there may be some difficulty with complex information; ideas and opinions are relevant and generally supported.</p> <p>The student shows satisfactory depth in understanding of the topic.</p> <p>There is an appropriate structure and the student makes good use of cohesive devices.</p>

Example 6: controversial essay

This work achieved level 5 because the student:

- communicates most of the basic information easily, but has difficulty with more-complex information
- presents her work in an appropriate structure (introduction, development, conclusion, as requested) that facilitates reading through the use of paragraphs
- makes appropriate use of cohesive devices, even though there are some lapses
- shows good understanding by dealing with many aspects of the subject
- occasionally supports her opinions with examples.

The student would have achieved a higher level if she had :

- communicated the more-complex information/ideas better
- used clearer examples to support her ideas and opinions
- shown a more-sophisticated use of cohesive devices.

Criterion D: writing—style and language use

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
3–4	<p>The student’s choice of vocabulary is varied though sometimes inappropriate for the context; some errors occur in basic and complex grammar, though these do not affect comprehensibility.</p> <p>There are occasional errors in spelling/writing, but these do not interfere with communication.</p> <p>There is a good attempt at addressing audience. However, register and/or style are sometimes inconsistent and/or inappropriate.</p>

This work achieved level 4 because the student:

- uses a varied vocabulary even though it is sometimes inappropriate for the context, sometimes leading to confusion
- makes errors in basic (subject–verb agreement; noun–pronoun agreement) and complex grammar (verb tenses; sequence of tenses) that do not affect comprehensibility although there is frequent need to read the passage twice
- uses a register that is generally appropriate for this kind of essay.

The student would have achieved a higher level if she had:

- made fewer errors in vocabulary and grammar
- made a more thoughtful choice of words appropriate to the given context.

Student work

Topic choice: 4 _____

Final Draft

It is hard to find how to raise a well adjusted child; Sometimes, parents think they have to let their child do anything they want and some others, consider they have to supervise everything they make. There is a right middle between both acting, **parents only need to have a good relationship with their kids.**

First, parents have to listen to their child needs.

Nowadays, everyone are very worried with their jobs and don't have any time to talk with their children although, it is the best way to understand them. Kids who never have any conversation with their parents will have problems at school, with other kids and unfortunately with themselves. To be well adjusted, they need all their parents care.

Secondly, children need the apprehension of their parents to make their own experiences. Everyone knows experiences is an ordinary passage of life, but they are still parents who believe mistakes are not a right way to turn. After all, children need certainly freedom to understand they are able to make choice by their own. With this mind thinking, children will understand that even if they had made something wrong, they will always be supported by their parents.

Third of all, parents have to put their own limits. Any child can receive a good education if they don't even have any restrictions. If parents are

too easy-going, they will lose all control on their child and this one will get used to domination with everyone and it is certainly not the right way to raise a well adjusted child.

To conclude, parents need to entertain a good relationship with their child to raise them well and adjusted. They also have to listen to their needs, so they could give their opinions. Parents have to be very comprehensive to their child experiences, to permit them to take better decisions after. Finally, they have to learn how to put good and logical limits to make understand to their child the importance of good values. If every parents act this way, I believe there will be less more kids with attitude's troubles!

361 words