

Exemplar #4—Essay

Explaining Your Writing Variables

Identify your choices for these four writing variables for your writing task on *A Brighter Future*.

Central Idea: How technology has bettered humanity overall.

Form: Essay format.

Purpose: To persuade a reader that technology truly bettered society.

Audience: Anyone who is against technology, no other specifications.

Explain how your choices for the writing variables work together to make your text effective.

5 marks

These variables all relate to the topic, that humanity has been bettered by technology, and all work together to prove that point. The audience is anyone who is against technology, for any other criteria outside of that fact is unimportant when this point is being discussed. It is in an essay format to be serious about the topic, yet still be fun to read. These four variables are all pillars holding up the argument, supporting it and giving it strength.

Final Copy

40 marks

Title: Following the Light of
It is currently the twenty-first century. We have not made the advancements that those from the twentieth century may have expected, but we have accomplished quite a few things that many would not have expected. Technology, overall, has bettered the human society as a whole. In medicine, everyday life, and discoveries in new fields, technology has given us the capabilities to advance further along in knowledge and understanding.

Medicine, as in anything having to do with the medical field, is critical in the survival of mankind. One hundred years ago, circumstance determined whether you lived or died after receiving treatment. Not how severe your affliction was, nor how early you received medical aid; circumstance decided all. Now, most illnesses that were once considered fatal are easily cured or can be treated if caught in time. We have large archives of vaccines for diseases like malaria or smallpox, and surgeries to address damaged tissues or parasites in our bodies. We have better birthing conditions, compared to fifty years ago, and equipment to monitor the states of the mother and child. These advancements have led to the death rate decreasing, and birth and survival rates increasing. This allows for our race to continue to thrive on planet Earth, for more new ideas to be created and shared between these offspring, and for more technological advancement in all we do. These advancements better our societies in various ways and forms, but quite a number are used by the average human in daily life.

We have all grown up more spoiled than our parents did. Our parents grew up more spoiled than their very own parents. It is simply a fact that accompanies human advancement. We may click garage door openers, thinking nothing of it as the door hums open or closed. Our grandparents most likely did not grow up with that technology to use, and their childhood self would be astonished that we do not see it as anything magical or out of the ordinary. Technology is used to better ourselves each and every day. People can work from home, sending out e-mail and document copies within the hour and getting immediate responses, where before it would take weeks through letters. Cell phones and smart phones have allowed instant communication throughout the world to be placed in our hands, and the internet has given us a built-up wealth of information to use when we need it. We have the ability to learn almost anything we wish to whenever we wish to. Knowledge can be shared instantaneously, to contribute to the slow chipping away at the next tasks humanity has to conquer. Too easy a task is it now to travel, as we have many forms of transportation to choose from. The vehicles in our garages and driveways, "mag-lev" bullet trains, buses, watercraft of all kinds, and aeroplanes. Being able to travel anywhere we wish to is something many people take lightly, despite it giving us the ability to create more technology and discover more knowledge that we can use to further better humanity. Now, even space is not such a monumental task, as we are preparing to start colonizing the cosmos.

Space is considered by many to be the final frontier; the last great expanse humanity has yet to colonize. We are now able to do things in and around space that many never dreamed would be a possibility thirty years ago. We can travel to Mars, send probes to every other planet in our Solar System, and mine asteroids for resources. We have found planets similar to ours, and have begun to search for life in the rest of the known universe. The achievements we have reached have allowed us to learn more about our universe, how conditions outside of our home planet affect us, and learn new methods of resource gathering. Being able to harness the power of our Sun is something once only possible on a space station floating in orbit. Now, we have refined it and made it a large generator of clean energy. We will eventually run out of resources on Earth to make all of this technology however, and will need to seek the materials elsewhere. The ability to mine the minerals and metals contained within asteroids is the product of research to solve this problem, and is invaluable for the advancement of humanity. We will be able to access the materials that were previously locked away in places like the Asteroid Belt, where any hope of gathering resources seemed impossible. Using these materials we can create more technological marvels to continuously advance the machine that is human progress. We will be able to build more spacecraft, numerous space stations, habitats on other planets that will be suitable for human settlers, and of course, a fleet of mining vehicles and robots to gather increasing amounts of resources.

It is the twenty-first century. We have made many magnificent advancements in our technologies, allowing progression in our societies to occur rapidly, and giving us a clearer glimpse at the brighter future of our race. A better future than our present day; one where disease is almost non-existent, where the technology our descendants will grow up with will make our current inventions look slow and prehistoric in comparison. One where it will be normal to live in space, gather our resources from asteroids, and to wave to the intelligent non-human species you have as neighbours. So, overall, technology has already given us a brighter future in medicine, everyday life, and discoveries in new fields. They will continue to do so until there is no more left to learn, to create, or to find. What the next item they contribute to society will be, only time will tell. The real question is, how bright can our future be made?

Rationale for Exemplar #4 Writing Task (Essay)

Explaining Your Writing Variables

Rationale:

Score: 2

- Response provides an undeveloped explanation of how the student’s choices work together to make the student’s text effective.
 - “. . . four variables are the pillars holding up the argument, supporting it and giving it strength.”
- Rationale for writing variables is vague.
 - “. . . the topic, that humanity has been bettered by technology . . . The audience is anyone who is against technology . . .”
 - “It is in an essay format to be serious about the topic . . .”

Writing Task

Ideas

Rationale:

Score: 5

- Ideas are perceptive for the identified audience and for effectively achieving the stated purpose.
 - “In medicine, everyday life, and discoveries in new fields, technology has given us the capabilities to advance further along in knowledge and understanding.”
 - “These advancements have led to the death rate decreasing, and birth and survival rates increasing. This allows for our race to continue to thrive on planet Earth . . .”
 - “We have the ability to learn almost anything we wish to whenever we wish to. Knowledge can be shared instantaneously . . .”
 - “The achievements we have reached have allowed us to learn more about our universe, how conditions outside of our home planet affect us, and learn new methods of resource gathering.”
 - “We have made many magnificent advancements in our technologies, allowing progression in our societies to occur rapidly, and giving us a clearer glimpse at the brighter future of our race.”

Organizational Structures, Techniques, and Transitions

Rationale:

Score: 5

- Distinct overall organizational structures are used with impact and achieve stated purpose; techniques and transitions artfully integrate ideas into a coherent, unified whole.
 - “Medicine, as in anything having to do with the medical field, is critical in the survival of mankind.”

- *“These advancements better our societies in various ways and forms, but quite a number are used by the average human in daily life.”*
- *“Now, even space is not such a monumental task . . . Space is . . .”*
- *“The real question is, how bright can our future be made?”*

Language Use and Arrangement

Rationale:

Score: 5

- Language choices and arrangement of ideas are superior for the writing variables; voice is distinct and effective.
- Powerful and precise diction; polished syntax; sophisticated arrangement of ideas.
 - *“Not how severe your affliction was, nor how early you recieved medical aid; circumstance decided all.”*
 - *“ . . . large archives of vaccines . . .”*
 - *“ . . . surgeries to address damaged tissues . . .”*
 - *“ . . . to contribute to the slow chipping away at the next tasks humanity has to conquer.”*
 - *“ . . . colonizing the cosmos.”*
 - *“ . . . the final frontier; the last great expanse humanity has yet to colonize.”*
 - *“The ability to mine the minerals and metals contained within asteroids is the product of research to solve this problem, and is invaluable for the advancement of humanity.”*

Grammar, Spelling, Capitalization, and Punctuation

Rationale:

Score: 5

- Demonstrates skillful control of the conventions of written language.
 - *“We will be able to build more spacecraft, numerous space stations, habitats on other planets that will be suitable for human settlers, and of course, a fleet of mining vehicles and robots to gather increasing amounts of resources.”*
 - *“They will continue to do so until there is no more left to learn, to create, or to find.”*
- Errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation may exist, but they do not affect the overall impact.
 - *“One hundred years ago, circumstance determined whether you lived or died after recieving treatment.”*
 - *“Too easy a task is it now to travel, as we have many forms of transportation to choose from. The vehicles in our garages and driveways, ‘mag-lev’ bullet trains, buses, watercraft of all kinds, and aeroplanes.”*