

IELTS WRITING MASTERCLASS (Task 2 Focus)

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PART 1: WRITING GENRES

IELTS Writing Task 2 - Writing Genres

Before writing:

- Underline keywords.
 - Decide essay type.
 - Brainstorm ideas.
 - Rephrase the topic.
- (idea + explanation + example + conclusion)

Type 1: Agree or Disagree Essay

Example:

Some people believe that working from home should become the main mode of employment in the future. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Note: Opinion is REQUIRED (in thesis + conclusion)

Structure:

Introduction: Rephrase + explanation + thesis

Body 1: First reason + explanation + example

Body 2: Second reason + explanation + example

Conclusion: Summary + opinion

Type 2: Advantages and Disadvantages Essay

Example:

Many universities now offer courses completely online. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

Note: Opinion NOT required (optional in conclusion)

Structure:

Introduction

Body 1: Advantages

Body 2: Disadvantages

Conclusion

Type 3: Problem Solution Essay

Example:

Traffic congestion is becoming increasingly serious in many major cities. What problems does this cause, and what solutions can be introduced?

Note: Opinion OPTIONAL

Structure:

Introduction

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions

Conclusion

Type 4: Discuss Both Views Essay

Example:

Some people believe governments should increase taxes on unhealthy food to improve public health, while others think this is unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Note: Opinion REQUIRED

Structure:

Introduction

Body 1: View 1

Body 2: View 2

Conclusion: Opinion

Type 5: Two-Part Question Essay

Example:

In many countries, people are living longer than ever before. Why is this happening? What problems can this cause for society?

Note: Opinion OPTIONAL

Structure:

Introduction

Body 1: Question 1

Body 2: Question 2

Conclusion

Type 6: Advantages Outweigh Disadvantages

Example:

The use of artificial intelligence in the workplace is increasing. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Note: Opinion REQUIRED

Structure:

Introduction

Body 1: Opposite view

Body 2: Your view

Conclusion

Type 7: Positive or Negative Development

Example:

In recent years, cash payments are being replaced by digital and mobile payments. Is this a positive or negative development?

Note: Opinion REQUIRED

Structure:

Introduction, Body 1, Body 2, Conclusion

Model Essay (Academic Writing)

The consumption of processed and fast food has increased rapidly in many countries. Some people believe that governments should take responsibility for reducing this trend, while others think individuals are responsible.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Sample Essay:

Model Essay – Band 8

The rapid rise in the consumption of processed and fast food has become a pressing issue in many countries. Some people argue that governments should take responsibility for reducing this trend, while others believe it is up to individuals to control their own diets. This essay will discuss both views before arguing that although personal choice is important, government intervention is essential.

On the one hand, supporters of individual responsibility claim that people are fully capable of making informed decisions about what they eat. In most countries, nutritional information is widely available, and adults can easily understand the health risks associated with excessive fast food consumption, such as obesity and heart disease. Furthermore, many people choose fast food for convenience despite being aware of its negative effects, which suggests that personal discipline, rather than government control, is the key factor in improving dietary habits.

On the other hand, governments are in a strong position to influence public behaviour and protect citizens' health. Through regulations such as higher taxes on unhealthy food, restrictions on junk food advertising, and clear food labelling laws, authorities can discourage excessive consumption. In addition, governments can invest in public health campaigns and promote healthier alternatives by subsidising fresh food or supporting school nutrition programmes. These measures have the advantage of reaching the whole population, including vulnerable groups such as children.

In my opinion, while individuals should take responsibility for their daily choices, government action is necessary to reduce the widespread dependence on processed food. Without effective policies and regulation, personal efforts alone are unlikely to succeed. Therefore, a combination of education and government intervention is the most effective solution to this growing problem.

Practice Questions

- Is the essay relevant to the topic?
 - Was it properly rephrased in the introduction?
 - Where is the thesis statement?
 - Was the opinion stated? Where?
 - What should you do when reading the question?
 - Identify introduction, body, and conclusion.
 - Should you leave space between paragraphs?
 - Can you copy the topic in introduction?
 - Should you stick to 250 words? What?
 - Are there cohesion markers that glue the ideas and the paragraphs together?
 - Are there any examples? Where?
 - Is vocabulary strong? Give examples.
 - Are sentence structures varied?
 - Any grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes?
 - Is punctuation important?
 - Are contractions or abbreviations used?
 - Any informal expressions?
 - Is research included? Where?
 - Are there any new ideas in the conclusion?
-

✓ Band 8 Model Answers:

Type 1: Agree or Disagree

Question:

Some people believe that human memory is becoming less important in the digital age due to easy access to information. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Band 9 Model Answer (≈280 words):

In an era dominated by digital technology, it is often argued that human memory is losing its importance because information is readily available at the press of a button. While it is undeniable that technology has transformed the way people store and access knowledge, I strongly disagree with the idea that human memory is becoming obsolete.

On the one hand, digital devices have undoubtedly reduced the need to memorise large amounts of factual information. Search engines, online databases, and cloud storage allow individuals to retrieve data instantly, whether it is a historical date, a scientific formula, or a foreign word. As a result, people no longer need to rely solely on their memory for recalling facts, and this can save time and effort. Furthermore, by outsourcing simple recall tasks to technology, individuals may be able to focus more on analysis, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

However, memory remains a fundamental cognitive ability that underpins learning, understanding, and critical thinking. Without a strong memory, it would be impossible to build knowledge progressively, as new information must be connected to what is already stored in the mind. For example, students who lack the ability to remember core concepts often struggle to comprehend advanced topics, regardless of how much information is available online. Moreover, excessive dependence on digital tools may weaken mental discipline, leading to reduced concentration and shallow thinking.

In addition, memory plays an essential role in everyday life beyond academic or professional contexts. Personal experiences, emotional connections, and social relationships rely on memory, and these cannot be stored or replaced by electronic devices in a meaningful way.

In conclusion, although technology has reduced the need to memorise certain types of information, human memory remains indispensable for intellectual development, deep understanding, and personal identity. Therefore, I completely disagree with the view that memory is becoming less important in the digital age.

Type 2: Advantages and Disadvantages

Question:

Many cities are replacing traditional public spaces with virtual or digital environments. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

Band 9 Model Answer (≈270 words):

The replacement of traditional public spaces with virtual or digital environments has become increasingly common in modern cities. While this trend offers several advantages, it also brings significant disadvantages that should not be ignored.

One major benefit of digital public spaces is improved accessibility. Online platforms allow people to communicate, attend events, and access services regardless of their physical location. This is particularly advantageous for individuals with mobility difficulties, busy schedules, or those living in remote areas. In addition, virtual environments often operate at a lower cost than physical spaces, as they do not require maintenance, security, or large infrastructure. As a result, cities may reduce expenses while still providing residents with platforms for interaction and engagement.

Another advantage is flexibility. Digital spaces can host a wide range of activities simultaneously, from virtual exhibitions to online community meetings, and they can be easily adapted to meet changing needs. This level of convenience is difficult to achieve in traditional public spaces.

Despite these benefits, the decline of physical public spaces can have serious social consequences. Face-to-face interactions are essential for building trust, empathy, and a strong sense of community, which virtual environments struggle to replicate fully. The absence of physical meeting places may lead to social isolation, especially among older people who are less comfortable with technology. Furthermore, excessive reliance on digital platforms may encourage sedentary lifestyles and contribute to mental health problems.

In conclusion, although virtual public spaces enhance accessibility and convenience, they risk weakening social bonds and undermining physical well-being. A balanced approach that preserves traditional public spaces while integrating digital alternatives would be the most beneficial solution for modern cities.

Type 3: Problem and Solution

Question:

Increasing numbers of people are experiencing “decision fatigue” due to too many choices in modern life. What problems does this cause and what solutions can be implemented?

Band 9 Model Answer (≈260 words):

The growing number of choices available in modern life has led to a phenomenon known as decision fatigue, which can have serious consequences for individuals and society. This essay will discuss the problems associated with decision fatigue and propose practical solutions to address it.

One major problem caused by decision fatigue is reduced productivity. When people are required to make numerous decisions throughout the day, their mental energy becomes depleted, making it harder to concentrate on important tasks. As a result, work efficiency may decline and deadlines may be missed. Another significant issue is poor decision-making. Mentally exhausted individuals are more likely to make impulsive or irrational choices, such as unhealthy food selections or unnecessary purchases, which can negatively affect their health and finances.

Decision fatigue can also contribute to increased stress and anxiety. Constantly weighing options can be overwhelming, leading individuals to feel dissatisfied or fearful of making the wrong choice. Over time, this mental pressure may contribute to burnout or reduced overall well-being.

Several solutions can help mitigate this problem. On an individual level, people can simplify their daily routines by limiting non-essential decisions, such as planning meals in advance or adopting fixed schedules. Prioritising important tasks earlier in the day, when mental energy is highest, can also improve decision quality. On a broader level, organisations and governments can reduce complexity by offering clearer options, streamlined procedures, and user-friendly services.

In conclusion, decision fatigue can lead to reduced productivity, poor judgement, and increased stress. However, through conscious personal strategies and structural simplification, its negative impact can be significantly reduced.

Type 4: Discuss Both Views

Question:

Some people believe that future cities should be built underground, while others think cities should expand vertically above ground. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Band 9 Model Answer (≈260 words):

As urban populations continue to grow, there is ongoing debate about whether future cities should develop underground or expand vertically above ground. Both approaches offer distinct advantages, although I believe that vertical expansion is ultimately more practical.

Supporters of underground cities argue that this approach can significantly reduce surface congestion. By relocating transport systems, commercial areas, and even residential spaces below ground, cities can free up land for green spaces and reduce overcrowding. Additionally, underground environments may protect inhabitants from extreme weather conditions and environmental hazards, such as heatwaves or air pollution.

On the other hand, advocates of vertical expansion claim that building upwards is more cost-effective and technologically feasible. Advances in engineering have made it possible to construct safe, sustainable skyscrapers that efficiently accommodate large populations. Vertical cities also allow easier access to natural light and ventilation, which are essential for physical and mental health. Furthermore, maintaining underground infrastructure can be extremely expensive and complex, particularly in areas prone to flooding or earthquakes.

In my opinion, although underground development is an innovative concept, vertical expansion presents fewer long-term risks and challenges. High-rise buildings can be designed to incorporate green technology, such as solar panels and rooftop gardens, making them environmentally sustainable. Additionally, people tend to prefer living and working above ground due to psychological comfort and access to natural surroundings.

In conclusion, while both underground and vertical cities offer solutions to urban overcrowding, vertical expansion is a more realistic, sustainable, and socially acceptable approach for future urban development.

Type 5: Two-Part Question

Question:

Why are people increasingly seeking minimalistic lifestyles? Is this a positive or negative development?

Band 9 Model Answer (≈260 words):

In recent years, an increasing number of people have chosen to adopt minimalistic lifestyles. This trend can be attributed to several factors and is, in my view, largely a positive development.

One key reason for the rise of minimalism is the desire to reduce stress and simplify daily life. Many individuals feel overwhelmed by excessive possessions, financial pressures, and constant consumerism. By owning fewer items and focusing on essential needs, people can enjoy a greater sense of control and mental clarity. Additionally, growing awareness of environmental issues has encouraged individuals to consume less, as minimalism promotes sustainability and reduces waste.

Another contributing factor is the influence of modern media and social movements that emphasise personal well-being over material success. As a result, people are increasingly valuing experiences, relationships, and personal growth rather than accumulating wealth or possessions.

Overall, this trend is predominantly positive. Minimalistic lifestyles can lead to improved mental health, reduced debt, and a smaller environmental footprint. By prioritising quality over quantity, individuals may achieve greater life satisfaction. However, it is important to acknowledge that minimalism may not suit everyone. Some people may find comfort or motivation in material possessions, particularly in cultures where wealth signifies success.

In conclusion, despite its limitations, the growing interest in minimalism represents a constructive response to modern pressures. When adopted voluntarily and realistically, it can enhance well-being and promote a more balanced and sustainable way of life.

Type 6: Advantages Outweigh Disadvantages

Question:

*People are increasingly using virtual reality for education and training.
Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

Band 9 Model Answer (≈260 words):

The use of virtual reality (VR) in education and professional training has grown rapidly in recent years. Although this technology presents certain drawbacks, I believe that its advantages clearly outweigh its disadvantages.

One significant benefit of VR is the immersive learning experience it offers. Students and trainees can engage with content in realistic simulations, which enhances understanding and retention. For example, medical students can practise surgical procedures in a risk-free virtual environment, while engineers can simulate complex systems without physical materials. This hands-on approach is particularly effective for practical skills that are difficult to teach through traditional methods.

Another advantage is flexibility and accessibility. Virtual training can be conducted remotely, reducing the need for physical travel and allowing learners to access high-quality education regardless of location. Over time, this could help reduce educational inequalities between regions.

However, there are some disadvantages to consider. The high cost of VR equipment may limit accessibility, particularly in developing countries. Additionally, excessive use of virtual environments could reduce face-to-face interaction and cause physical discomfort, such as eye strain or motion sickness.

Despite these drawbacks, the long-term benefits of VR in education are substantial. As technology advances, costs are likely to decrease and health concerns can be managed through responsible usage.

In conclusion, although virtual reality presents certain challenges, its ability to enhance learning quality, safety, and accessibility means that its advantages outweigh its disadvantages.

Type 7: Positive or Negative Development

Question:

People are spending more time consuming short-form content instead of long-form content. Is this a positive or negative development?

Band 9 Model Answer (≈260 words):

The increasing popularity of short-form content reflects a significant shift in how people consume information in the digital age. While this trend offers certain benefits, I believe it is largely a negative development.

One positive aspect of short-form content is convenience. Brief videos, articles, or posts are easy to access and consume, particularly for individuals with busy lifestyles. This format allows information to be delivered quickly and can be effective for entertainment or basic awareness. In addition, short-form content can increase engagement, especially among younger audiences with limited attention spans.

However, the drawbacks outweigh these advantages. Short-form content often lacks depth and encourages superficial understanding of complex topics. As a result, individuals may develop weaker analytical and critical thinking skills. Constant exposure to brief, fast-paced content can also reduce attention spans, making it difficult for people to concentrate on longer tasks such as reading books or engaging in academic study.

Furthermore, the algorithm-driven nature of short-form platforms may lead to excessive screen time and reduced productivity. Over time, this can negatively affect mental health and overall well-being.

In conclusion, although short-form content provides convenience and entertainment, its long-term impact on concentration, deep learning, and intellectual development is concerning. For this reason, I consider this trend to be largely negative, and individuals should strive to maintain a balance between short-form and long-form content consumption.

IELTS Writing Task 2 – Brainstorming Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Brainstorm ideas before writing your essay. Use notes only.

Opinion Essay 1

Some people believe that university education should be free for everyone.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Opinion Essay 2

Social media has had a negative impact on relationships.
Do you agree or disagree?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Discussion Essay 1

Some people prefer living in big cities, while others prefer the countryside.
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Discussion Essay 2

Some people believe online learning will replace classroom learning. Others disagree. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Problem–Solution Essay 1

Traffic congestion is increasing in many cities.
What are the causes and solutions?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Problem–Solution Essay 2

Many people today suffer from work-related stress.
What are the reasons and solutions?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Advantages & Disadvantages Essay 1

Working from home is becoming more common.
Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

Advantages & Disadvantages Essay 2

Studying in a foreign country has benefits and drawbacks.
What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Main Ideas:

Supporting Reasons:

Examples:

Conclusion / Opinion:

model answers.

Opinion Essay 1

Some people believe that university education should be free for everyone.

Main Ideas:

- Education as a basic right
- Equal opportunities for all students
- Government investment in human capital
- Concerns about funding and quality

Supporting Reasons:

- Free education reduces inequality
- More skilled workforce benefits economy
- Helps talented students from poor backgrounds
- High costs may burden taxpayers

Examples:

- Countries with free universities (e.g. Germany)
- Graduates contribute more in taxes later
- Scholarships vs full free education

Conclusion / Opinion:

- Partially agree
- Free education for those in need
- Shared cost model more realistic

Opinion Essay 2

Social media has had a negative impact on relationships.

Main Ideas:

- Reduced face-to-face interaction
- Miscommunication online
- Addiction and distraction
- Some positive effects exist

Supporting Reasons:

- People spend less quality time together
- Messages lack tone and emotion
- Constant comparison causes conflict
- Easy to reconnect with others

Examples:

- Couples arguing over online activity
- Families using phones during meals
- Long-distance friendships maintained online

Conclusion / Opinion:

- Agree to a large extent
- Negative impact outweighs benefits
- Balanced use is necessary

Discussion Essay 1

Living in big cities vs countryside

Main Ideas:

- Cities: jobs, services, lifestyle
- Countryside: peace, nature, community
- Personal preference matters

Supporting Reasons:

- Cities offer better education and careers

- Rural life is healthier and less stressful
- Cost of living differs greatly

Examples:

- Young professionals prefer cities
- Retired people prefer countryside
- Remote work allows rural living

Conclusion / Opinion:

- Both have advantages
- Prefer countryside for quality of life

Discussion Essay 2

Online learning vs classroom learning

Main Ideas:

- Online learning: flexibility
- Classroom learning: interaction
- Technology changing education

Supporting Reasons:

- Online saves time and cost
- Classroom offers real-time feedback
- Not all subjects suit online learning

Examples:

- University online courses
- Practical subjects need classrooms
- Blended learning models

Conclusion / Opinion:

- Online will not fully replace classrooms
- Combination is most effective

Problem–Solution Essay 1

Traffic congestion in cities

Main Ideas:

- Overpopulation
- Too many private cars
- Poor public transport
- Urban planning issues

Supporting Reasons:

- More people commute daily
- Car-dependent lifestyle
- Limited road capacity

Examples:

- Rush hour traffic
- Pollution and delays
- Stress for commuters

Solutions:

- Improve public transport
- Encourage carpooling
- Build cycling lanes
- Flexible working hours

Conclusion:

- Multiple causes require combined solutions

Problem–Solution Essay 2

Work-related stress

Main Ideas:

- Long working hours
- Job insecurity
- High expectations

- Poor work-life balance

Supporting Reasons:

- Constant deadlines
- Fear of unemployment
- Pressure from managers

Examples:

- Employees working overtime
- Burnout and health problems

Solutions:

- Flexible schedules
- Mental health support
- Reasonable workload
- Clear job roles

Conclusion:

- Employers and workers must cooperate

Advantages & Disadvantages Essay 1**Working from home****Main Ideas:**

- Flexibility and comfort
- Reduced commuting
- Isolation and distractions

Supporting Reasons:

- Better work-life balance
- Saves money and time
- Less supervision

Examples:

- Parents managing childcare

- Employees feeling isolated
- Internet problems affecting work

Conclusion / Opinion:

- Advantages outweigh disadvantages
- Not suitable for all jobs

Advantages & Disadvantages Essay 2

Studying in a foreign country

Main Ideas:

- Cultural exposure
- Better education
- High cost
- Homesickness

Supporting Reasons:

- Improved language skills
- International qualifications
- Living expenses are high
- Emotional challenges

Examples:

- International students gaining confidence
- Financial pressure on families

Conclusion:

- Benefits are significant
 - Preparation reduces disadvantages
-

Very crucial sentences and phrases to learn and practice writing:

1 Introduction – Opening the Essay

✓ Paraphrasing the Question

- It is often argued that ...
- Some people believe this ...while others believe that.....
- Supporters believe that, whereas opponents are convinced that.....
- There is ongoing debate about whether ...
- In recent years, many people have become concerned about ...

✓ Giving Your Opinion

- In my opinion, ...
 - I (completely, partially, wholeheartedly, fully) agree/disagree with this view.
 - I agree to a certain extent.
 - This essay will discuss both views before giving my opinion.
-

2 Body Paragraphs – Main Ideas

✓ Topic Sentences

- One of the main reasons for this is that ...
- A key advantage of this trend is ...
- One significant drawback is ...
- An important issue that needs to be considered is ...

✓ Adding Ideas

- Furthermore, ...
 - Moreover, ...
 - In addition, ...
 - Another point worth mentioning is ...
-

3 Explanation & Development (Very Important!)

Use these to **extend your ideas**:

- This means that ...
- As a result, ...
- Consequently, ...
- This leads to ...
- In other words, ...

 These phrases help increase **Task Response** and **Coherence & Cohesion**.

4 Giving Examples

- For example, ...
 - For instance, ...
 - A clear example of this is ...
 - This can be seen in the case of ...
-

5 Balanced & Academic Language

Showing Contrast

- However, ...
- On the other hand, ...
- In contrast, ...

Concession (Band 7+ skill)

- While it is true that ..., I believe that ...
 - Although this view has some merit, ...
 - Despite these advantages, ...
-

6 Cause–Effect Language

Causes

- One of the main causes of this problem is ...
- This issue is largely due to ...
- This problem stems from ...

Effects

- This results in ...
 - As a consequence, ...
 - This has a negative impact on ...
-

Solutions Language

- One possible solution would be to ...
 - Governments should take measures to ...
 - This problem could be addressed by ...
 - A long-term solution is to ...
-

Advantages & Disadvantages

Advantages

- One major benefit is ...
- A key advantage of this is ...
- This allows people to ...

Disadvantages

- One obvious drawback is ...
 - This may lead to ...
 - However, there are certain limitations.
-

Conclusion Phrases

Summarizing

- In conclusion, ...
- To sum up, ...
- To wrap up,
- In summary,
- To summarize,
- Overall, it is clear that ...

Restating Opinion

- I firmly believe that ...
 - In my opinion, a balanced approach is best.
 - The advantages clearly outweigh the disadvantages.
-

Practice Exercises (Optional but Recommended)

Exercise 1: Complete the Sentences

Fill in the gaps using suitable phrases from the list.

1. One of the main causes of traffic congestion is _____.
 2. While it is true that social media has benefits, _____.
 3. A key advantage of working from home is _____.
 4. This problem could be addressed by _____.
-

Exercise 2: Improve the Sentence

Rewrite the sentences using better academic language.

1. *I think education is important.*
→ In my opinion, _____.
 2. *This causes problems.*
→ As a result, _____.
-

Exercise 3: Mini Writing Task

Write **one body paragraph (80–100 words)** using:

- ONE topic sentence
- ONE example
- ONE explanation phrase

Guiding answers:

Exercise 1: Complete the Sentences

(Answers may vary. These are model responses.)

1. **One of the main causes of traffic congestion is** the heavy reliance on private cars in urban areas.
 2. **While it is true that social media has benefits,** it often reduces the amount of face-to-face interaction between people.
 3. **A key advantage of working from home is** the improved work-life balance it offers employees.
 4. **This problem could be addressed by** improving public transport and encouraging flexible working hours.
-

Exercise 2: Improve the Sentence

1

Original:

I think education is important.



Improved:

In my opinion, education plays a vital role in the development of both individuals and society.

2

Original:

This causes problems.



Improved:

As a result, this issue can lead to serious social and economic problems.

Exercise 3: Mini Writing Task (Model Paragraph)



Sample Body Paragraph (Band 7–8)

One of the main advantages of working from home is the flexibility it provides employees. This means that people can manage their personal and professional responsibilities more

effectively. For example, parents are able to spend more time with their children while still completing their work tasks. As a result, workers often experience less stress and greater job satisfaction, which can lead to increased productivity and improved mental well-being.

(≈85 words)

Examiner Notes (Optional – for Teachers)

- ✓ Clear topic sentence
- ✓ Idea fully explained
- ✓ Relevant example
- ✓ Natural linking words
- ✓ No memorised language

Marking Guidance (Simple Rubric)

Criteria	Achieved?
Clear main idea	
Explanation given	
Example included	
Accurate grammar	
Appropriate linking	
