

ECCE WRITING

Time: 30 minutes

A short excerpt from a newspaper is presented as a writing topic. Candidates choose one task: a letter (Task A) or an essay (Task B).

ECCE WRITING I: Letter Expressing Your Opinion You will read a short newspaper article and will choose to write a letter to the editor giving your opinion, or an essay expressing your opinion.

CELLPHONES BANNED IN SCHOOLS

The Department of Education announced yesterday that cellphones would be prohibited in schools across the country. "We believe that cellphones have no place in classrooms today," said a spokesperson for the department. "Cellphone activity disrupts the lessons and makes keeping order in the classroom even more difficult for the teacher," he added. Any student caught using a cellphone during class will be suspended from school for five days.

Several student groups protested the new rule. "Cellphones are a part of life today. Students need their cellphones to arrange for their parents to pick them up after school," said one student. "Of course we use them to send messages to our friends too, but we also need them in case of emergency."

Task A: Letter Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper expressing your views on the prohibition of cellphones in school. Give specific reasons and examples. Begin your letter, *Dear Editor*.

Plan **Model Letter Opening** Paragraph 1 Dear Editor, · say where you saw the I am writing with regard to the article entitled, "Cellphones Banned in Schools" article that appeared in your newspaper yesterday. I am a high school student and · sav who vou are I would like to express my opinion on the government's new rule about • say why you are writing cellphones. First of all, I would like to say that the Department of Education is completely **Body** wrong. In my opinion, banning cellphones in schools is not a good idea. I believe Paragraph 2 students need cellphones to keep in contact with their parents during the day and · state your opinion after school. If I know, for example, that I am going to be late, I use my cellphone • give examples / reasons to call my parents and let them know. Also, if an emergency comes up, students why you agree with the can use their cellphones to get help. article I would like to add I agree that it isn't right for students to send messages during Paragraph 3 lessons. I believe cellphones should be switched off in class. However, I think • give examples / reasons that using a cellphone at school is no reason to be suspended. Furthermore, why you disagree teachers have also been seen using their cellphones during class time. In my opinion, something should be done about that too. I hope that my letter will be published and that my views will be taken into account. Closing Paragraph 4 • say you hope your letter Yours sincerely, will be published Panos Pappas

Answer the questions about the model letter above.

1. Does the writer agree that	cellphones should be banned in so	chools? Find the sentence that	t shows this.

2. Add the underlined expressions in the model letter to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS			
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING	
Referring to the article • I have just read your article	Expressing your opinion •	Stating which action you want the editor to take	
about	•	•	
Saying why you are writing	Adding information •		
•	•		
	•		



ECCE WRITING I: Essay Expressing Your Opinion You will read a short newspaper article and be asked to write either a letter to the editor giving your opinion or an essay expressing your opinion.

CELLPHONES BANNED IN SCHOOLS

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Several student groups protested the new rule. "Cellphones are a part of life today. Students need their cellphones to arrange for their parents to pick them up after school," said one student. "Of course we use them to send messages to our friends too, but we also need them in case of emergency."

Task B: Essay Most students have cellphones these days. Do you think it is necessary for students to have cellphones or do they just waste students' time and interrupt classes? Discuss your opinion, giving examples.

Plan **Model Essay Opening** Paragraph 1 Cellphones are very popular today. It would be hard to find a teenager who • restate the topic in your own doesn't have one. <u>In my opinion</u>, cellphones have become a necessity for words teens, but I do agree that they are often used at the wrong times and in the • give your opinion wrong places. **Body** Cellphones are useful and even vital for teens today in several ways. First, Paragraph 2 parents can be in contact with their children at any moment with the • give reasons / explanation cellphone. Teens today have so many after-school activities and they often for your opinion need to be picked up or driven somewhere. If they are early or late, they need to be able to contact their parents. In addition, there are many dangers in Paragraph 3 society today. Having a cellphone allows teens to call the police or their • give reasons why the other parents for help. side is wrong • state your opinion On the other hand, teenagers don't seem to be able to part with their cellphones. They use their cellphones to listen to music, take photos and videos, play games, send messages and many other things, so it seems that teens are constantly busy with them. In my view, there should be some places where they are not allowed. The classroom, for example, should be a cellphone-free area. If students are concentrating on the lesson, then they shouldn't be using their cellphones. In conclusion, I believe that cellphones are important tools that make teens Closing Paragraph 4 • summarize the points made and their parents' lives easier. However, their use should be restricted in and restate your opinion in a some places like the classroom. different way Answer the questions about the model essay above.

1.	What is the writer's opinion about the use of cellphones?
2.	What is the connection between the opening paragraph and the closing paragraph?
3.	Add the underlined expressions in the model essay to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS			
Expressing your opinion •	Introducing your ideas •	Showing the opposite view • •	Summing up •



ECCE WRITING II: Letter of Recommendation You will read a short newspaper article and be asked to write a letter recommending someone for a program or an essay describing such a person.

STUDENTS TO REPRESENT OUR CITY AT AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The *City Times* newspaper is looking for students to represent our city at an international exhibition. The representative must speak English well. Knowledge of another language would be beneficial also. This person should be outgoing and well informed about our town's history as they will be required to talk to students from other countries about reasons to visit our town. The exhibition lasts three weeks. All expenses are paid and a generous sum is given to representatives.

Send your nominations to City Times.

Task A: Letter Write a letter to the editor of the *City Times*. Name one person you believe would be an ideal representative to the international exhibition. Describe the person and tell why you believe this person is suitable. You may nominate yourself if you wish. Begin your letter, *Dear Editor*.

Plan **Model Letter** Opening Paragraph 1 Dear Editor, · refer to the article I am writing in response to the article I read in yesterday's newspaper · say who you want to about student representatives to an international exhibition. I would like nominate to nominate my friend, Stephanie Dimou. **Body** I believe Stephanie would make an excellent representative of our city Paragraph 2 because she has many of the necessary qualities and qualifications. First of • refer to the qualifications all, she speaks English perfectly. She received both the ECCE and the mentioned in the article ECPE certificates. She also speaks Italian quite well. She has lived in our Paragraph 3 city all her life and knows its history. She loves our town and also likes talking to people, so I believe she would be able to persuade people to • refer to the personal visit our town or even come to study at our university. qualities that make the person suitable for the In addition, Stephanie is a hard-working person. She would have no position problem working at the exhibition all day. Also, she is a beautiful girl with a happy personality. She would certainly attract people to our city's booth both with her lovely face and her bright smile. Finally, I know that Stephanie would love to travel abroad but her family's financial circumstances are difficult, so she would appreciate this opportunity to travel and receive payment for her work. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate my friend to represent our city. Closing Paragraph 4 • thank reader for considering I hope she is chosen because I believe she would do an excellent job. your choice Yours sincerely, • repeat your belief that your Eleni Jones nominee is a good choice

Answer the questions about the model letter above.

- 1. Who does the writer recommend for the exhibition?.....
- 2. Add the underlined expressions in the model letter to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING
Referring to the article	Repeat name and say why	Thanking the reader
Giving your nomination I would like to nominate for the position / scholarship / award.	• Linking words • First of all, •	I hope she is chosen because

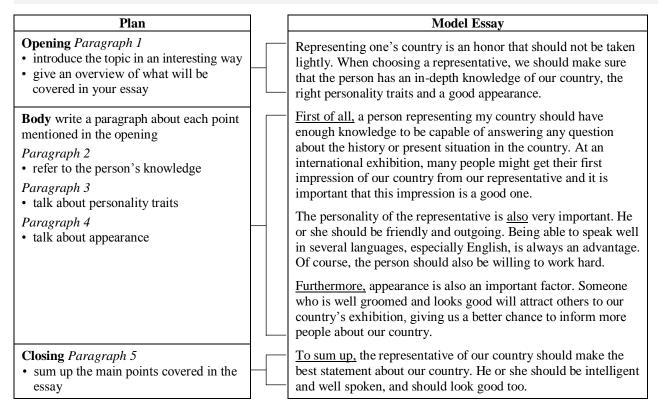


ECCE WRITING II: Descriptive Essay You will read a short newspaper article and be asked to write an essay recommending someone for a program or an essay describing such a person.

STUDENTS TO REPRESENT OUR CITY AT AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The *City Times* newspaper is looking for students to represent our city at an international exhibition. The representative must speak English well. Knowledge of another language would be beneficial also. This person should be outgoing and well informed about our town's history as they will be required to talk to students from other countries about reasons to visit our town. The exhibition lasts three weeks. All expenses are paid and a generous sum is given to representatives.

Task B: Essay What kind of person would make the ideal representative of your country at an international exhibition? Describe such a person. Be specific. Send your nominations to the *City Times*.



Answer the questions about the model essay above.

1.	. Circle the sentence in the opening paragraph that mentions three things a person should have in o	order	tc
	make an excellent representative.		

2. v	That is the connection between this sentence and the three paragraphs in the body of this essay?	
		••

3. Add the underlined expressions in the model essay above to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
Introducing your reasons •	Giving more reasons •	Summing up •



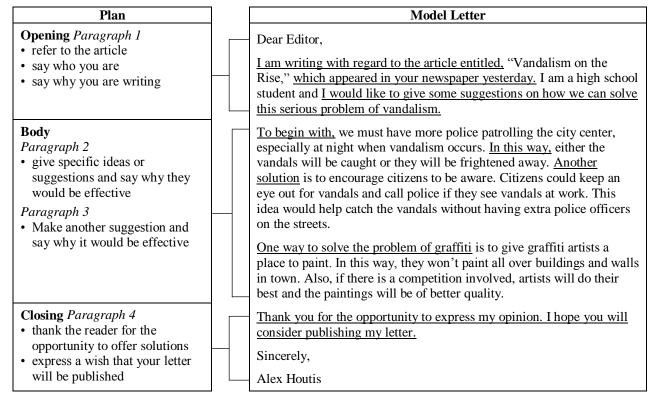
ECCE WRITING III: Letter Giving Solutions or Suggestions You will read a short newspaper article and be asked to write a letter giving solutions to a problem or write an essay.

VANDALISM ON THE RISE

"Acts of vandalism have risen nearly 40% in the last six months," said a police spokesperson yesterday. "We have seen a dramatic increase in vandalism recently," said Mr. John Price, "and we believe the majority of it is being committed by teenagers." Breaking streetlights and bottles in town squares, uprooting plants in parks and painting graffiti on walls are just some of the acts committed every day by unknown vandals.

A group of concerned citizens has called on the mayor and the town council to take action to stop this destructive trend from continuing.

Task A: Letter You have just read this article, which appeared in your local newspaper, and are concerned about the issue of vandalism. Write a letter to the editor suggesting measures that can be taken to stop vandalism in your town. Begin your letter, *Dear Editor*.



Answer the questions about the model letter above.

1.	The writer makes three suggestions in the letter. What are they?
2.	Add the underlined expressions in the model letter to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING
Referring to the article	Listing suggestions	Thanking the reader
•	•	•
	•	
Saying why you are writing	•	Ending politely
•	Explaining how your idea would work	•
	 Doing this would help 	
	•	



ECCE WRITING III: General Essay You will read a short newspaper article and be asked to write a letter giving solutions to a problem or write an essay.

VANDALISM ON THE RISE

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A group of concerned citizens has called on the mayor and the town council to take action to stop this destructive trend from continuing.

Task B: Essay Vandalism is a problem that many towns and cities face. Why do you think some people, especially teenagers, destroy public property? What can the town council or the police department do to solve the problem?

Plan	Model Essay
 Opening Paragraph 1 introduce the topic in an interesting way state that solutions can be found 	Vandalism affects all of us. The destruction of public property makes the city ugly and it is a crime against all citizens. We must all work together to find solutions to this problem.
 Body Paragraphs 2-3 answer the first question give solutions on how to solve the problem explain how each solution will help 	Many teenagers become vandals because they have no other outlet for their anger or frustration. They try to do something daring or dangerous to show their friends they are cool. Sometimes when teenagers are in a group, they do things they probably wouldn't do when alone.
	There are several steps that can be taken to stop vandalism. The first is to patrol the public parks and downtown areas more, especially at night. Seeing more police officers around will surely discourage vandals from destroying public property. Another idea is to form citizens' groups. These groups would keep their eyes open and call the police as soon as they see vandals. One way of solving the problem of graffiti is to organize a competition for graffiti artists. In this way, the paintings would be of better quality and not on every wall in town.
 Closing Paragraph 4 give a general comment on the problem and say you hope that your suggestions will help solve the problem 	In conclusion, if we all work together, we can solve the problem of vandalism once and for all.

What are the writer's suggestions? How can each suggestion help solve the problem? Complete the chart below. Use the underlined expressions in the essay to help you.

	Writer's suggestions	How each suggestion will help
a.	to patrol public parks and downtown areas more	seeing more police officers will discourage vandals
b.		
c.		