

Writing Task B: Exposition/Argument

Students at this level typically:

Level	Combined description for Content, Language (with an ESOL emphasis) and Structure
9	Present a comprehensive account of the issue with authority and individuality. Provide a thoughtful analysis and discussion that goes beyond the obvious, and may be highly original. Organise content to show inter-relationships between ideas and to build to an effective and satisfying conclusion. Demonstrate a mature and sophisticated command of language.
8	Develop a sustained and coherent discussion of the issue, using a number of supporting ideas or detailed evidence and reasoning. Approach to the issue implies a degree of critical distance, rather than merely personal involvement. May outline one or more counter arguments.
7	Present a coherent approach to the issue, maintaining focus while moving beyond the prompt. May attempt to engage or persuade the reader. Convey a sense of development and connectedness in the way the piece is organized with, for example, an introduction to orient the reader and a conclusion that goes beyond restatement. Use effective transitions between paragraphs. Write fluent text, at native or near-native speaker level.
6	Write a well-constructed piece with a clear thesis, development and conclusion. Show evidence of thinking beyond simply personal experience, and beyond ideas obviously derived from the prompt. Support position with several related points. Use some devices to make transitions between and within paragraphs.
5	Present a discussion relevant to the issue though a position or stance may not be maintained consistently. Offer several supporting ideas, from both a personal and a general perspective. Write a piece that has overall coherence and shapes ideas to a resolution. Attempt to use paragraphs to develop ideas separately, with one paragraph for each idea. Use a range of sentence forms, generally with correct grammar and syntax. Consciously vary language and structures.
4	Develop several points related to the issue, either offering an opinion with some support or describing several different views. Ideas about the issue tend to be limited in scope. Present ideas in a generally logical order. Attempt to use paragraphs. Attempt a variety of sentence forms. Use a mostly accurate vocabulary.
3	Present a few ideas and/or offer an opinion on the topic, based on personal involvement. Control syntax in simple and compound sentences and possibly attempt more complex structures. Attempt to use a variety of verb forms.
2	Write a brief piece (perhaps of one or two sentences) with some evidence of reasoning. Show evidence of shaping and sequencing ideas in part of the writing though not throughout. Compose a piece that is readable but does not flow, with some grammatical mistakes.
1	Make a simple statement or give an opinion related to the topic, without offering reasons or support. Show emerging evidence of understanding the task: for example, may begin with "I think" and have an introduction or conclusion. The text may be difficult to follow due to grammatical errors or because key words are left out.