MICHIGAN ECCE ESSAY COMPOSITION WRITING
PROMPTS FOR ESSAYS DESCRIBING OR DISCUSSING AN ISSUE – SET 1

Read the following short articles from a newspaper and write the essays which follow. You must write three essays, one for each task.
The useful phrases for writing essays discussing an issue are available at:
http://www.bryanhollamby.co.uk/courses/michiganecce/writing/essays-describing-an-issue.pdf

More and more parents are finding that they cannot support their family if only one of the parents work. As a result, both parents are going out to work and this has caused a variety of reactions in families – some children complain that they want to come home after school to find one of their parents (and a hot meal!) there, whereas other children love coming home from school to an empty house! This sometimes places a great strain on a family and can cause arguments and deep unhappiness.

However, a family in which both parents work finds it much easier to make ends meet financially, and this can lead to a more comfortable lifestyle for the whole family, with more fun, presents and holidays, a better education for the children, and a happier home environment. It can also mean that later on the parents are able to spend more time with their children, if later one parent no longer needs to work for extra money.

When both parents work there can be serious problems in a family, but it can also make life easier for the family in the long term. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both parents working and the effects this has on the family.

More and more people are travelling to other countries on holiday. We live in the age of cheap mass tourism and as a result poor countries of the world are receiving thousands of visitors from the developed world, but this is causing a variety of problems for the people and governments of those countries, as well as for the environment on our planet.

Some people claim that by visiting a poor country they are helping that country’s economy, and that they themselves become more aware of the problems of the Third World. They also say that it helps them to realise how lucky they are with their own lives and they can see their own problems in a better perspective.

Critics say that the advantages of this sort of tourism are outweighed by the problems it causes, and they mention as examples the air pollution caused by more jets flying in the Third World, exploitation of poor people and the inappropriate government use of the extra money coming into these countries – for example, the building of luxury hotels in areas where local people do not have proper, safe homes or enough to eat.

Cheap mass tourism is a modern phenomenon which has both its advantages and disadvantages. Describe how this form of tourism is affecting the poorer countries of the world. Do you think the effects are positive or negative?

The number of students leaving this country to study at foreign universities increases every year. Some parents say that they have no choice, complaining that universities in this country do not offer the level of education their children need to get a good job. Others say that attending a foreign university helps their child to develop into a more mature person with a more global understanding of life.

However, many students find it difficult to adapt to life in a foreign country, and many find it difficult to live in a country whose language, culture and customs are new to them. Many do not finish their studies because of these problems and end up coming home without a qualification, much to their parents’ disappointment. These students say that they should just have gone to a university in their own country. Clearly there are many advantages to studying abroad, but perhaps the disadvantages are too great for some?

With the ease of international travel and communications nowadays, many parents decide to send their children abroad to study, in the hope that they will get a better education. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this decision? Do students get a better education abroad and does it make them “better, more mature people”?

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