

Practice Essay Topic:

“Families are not having as many children today as they did in previous generations. Some families are having only one child and being raised as a single child has its advantages and disadvantages. In an essay of about 250 words, describe the advantages and disadvantages to being raised as an only child.”

(1) There are advantages and disadvantages to being raised as an only child. (2) One advantage to being a single child is that you don't have to compete with brothers or sisters for things. (3) But on the other hand, it can also be lonely to be the only child in your family. (4) Being a single child can have its rewards, but it can also have a downside to it.

(1) Being the only child in a family means no competition with other siblings. (2) For example, parents can devote a lot more time and affection on an only child. (3) They are also able to spend a lot more money on a single child for things like clothes and toys. (4) Being an only child certainly means that the child will get more attention and have more things.

(1) However, being the only child in your family means having no one to play with when you're at home. (2) For example, when you are a single child it means spending a lot of time by yourself when you're not playing with your parents or your friends. (3) It also means not having another person close to your age to talk to when you're at home. (4) Being raised by yourself can be quite a lonely experience for a single child.

(1) There are a lot more single child families today than there were in the past. (2) There are many good things about being raised by yourself such as getting more attention and things. (3) However, it can be a lonely experience for a child to be raised without siblings. (4) I think being an only child is okay, but I really think children should have brothers and sisters to grow up with.

Although this essay may appear to have a low word count, it actually contains 279 words. Each paragraph has four sentences, and by following the outline, I didn't have to worry about word count at all. All I had to do was focus on filling in each sentence and the word count automatically fell into place. It would be very easy to give more specific examples to make this essay larger and more interesting. All it takes is practice. As you can see, I've color coded the sentences here to show how the paragraphs are organized and interconnected to each other. Paragraph number two is written from the idea in the red sentence from paragraph number one. Paragraph number three is written from the idea in the blue sentence from paragraph number one. Paragraph number four is simply restating the first three sentences from paragraph number one only using different words to state them.

Once you've mastered this basic organization, you can then begin to write larger paragraphs and give more in depth examples to write more creative and interesting essays. And again, all it takes is practice. In order to get good at anything you must practice.

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