

CELP Benchmark Essays – Set 2

Prompt:

In some high school and university classes, teachers require students to work together on specific projects. Each student then gets a grade based on the group's success. Some students are quite happy to receive a grade based on the collaborative work of the group, while others feel that being graded as part of a group is not fair, and may penalize good students for the poor work of the lazier students. What is your opinion about being graded as part of a group? Explain your position with clear arguments and examples.

CELP Essay Sample F2

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Fail” range

Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

When I want to take classes I **will looking** for who teacher allow me to discuss most of the course material in small groups. First of all, I chose the teacher who allow to discuss, because I would like to think and say what I thinking about and discuss that with my teacher or with my group to improve my ideas and listen for my group ideas. Also this muathed is better than **just listen to teacher who just talking** all the time.

The teacher who just talking all the time **he don't allow to improv thinking** and discuss skills **also he don't his discuss skills**. Should be any teache allow of discussion in his material.

When I share with some **groups that make Listten** to many ideas from **differnte mindes** in the groups and Listten to discuss and **share them the discusstion**. Also sometimes I think about one idea in specific topic but after the discussion I chinge me idea because the discusstion **make me to returer thinking about me idea**.

Finally, I like the teacher who give me chince to think and discuss what he want to explain to me.

Comments on Evaluation

The writer's strategy of stating a preference for the kind of class the student prefers is a tangential approach to the prompt; the writer never directly addresses the prompt question.

*The writer's weak linguistic skills are immediately visible. Verb tense errors, verb omission, and word form errors. **I will looking – just listen to teacher who just talking – groups that make Listten...***

The writer makes one point in the first paragraph, then repeats the idea in both body paragraphs. There is little sense of development, and the severely limited range of grammar and vocabulary, plus numerous spelling mistakes, reveal this writer to be well below the C2 level of English proficiency.

This is an example of an essay in the “Fail” category

CELP Essay Sample NF2

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Narrow Fail” range

Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

Nowdays in educational system some high school and university classes, teachers require students to work together on specific projects.

for these projects, the grade based on the group’s success. for this reason **each student want to collaborate with teammates that work with system and they have zealous** for this project. But there are two different situations.

On the one hand, there are some students quite happy, because they work with a group that **everyone student wants to success** in project. All the students work with patience, with good mood and there is team spirit. Of course, the results of this project will be successful and the students will receive a good grade.

On the other hand, there is the possibility some students to collaborate with a group that they work poor and the members of this group can be lazier. Of course the results will be not successful.

My opinion is that each student wants to participate in a collaborative group because everyone wants a good grade. Beside this, I believe that a good student will be good either collaborate in a good group or poor group. for the best situation, he will have many difficulties to communicate with others students. So, the teachers must organize two or more specific projects in the year whereas they give the chance to good students to improve their qualifications, because, it’s a pity some students to be happy and others not. So will be a total grade for each student with different groups and all the students will be happy.

Of course this system needs more time and experts teachers that help the students to organize their work and of course with good cooperation the solution will be find.

Comments on Evaluation

The writer develops an argument well, with good supporting examples, but there are frequent local or global grammar and vocabulary errors.

*The idea that every student will want to work with **strong teammates** is partly obscured by language and vocabulary: reader effort is required, and not satisfied!*

Verb forms (success for succeed) word choice (results will be successful; poor for poorly) do not hinder meaning, but are “inadequate precision” for a C2 task.

The argument that “good” students will work hard in a good or poor group is insightful, but punctuation and sentence formation partly obscure this idea, as well.

The writer does not hesitate to express ideas, and to take chances with language, but has quite inconsistent control over all aspects of writing. Narrow fail.

CELP essay sample MP2

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Marginal Pass” range

Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

There are some high schools and university classes in which teachers think that it is better for students to work together on specific projects. Some students are happy, since they receive a grade based on the collaborative work and some others feel that being grades as part of a group is not fair, since there may be students, who did not really work. However, I personally believe that it is good to work together with your classmates.

First of all, there are many advantages to working together with others. You learn how to cooperate and how to share things with others, something which is really important nowadays. Moreover, you make new friends and you really have fun. For instance, last week, five of my classmates and I **work** together on a project which was about environmental problems. All that was exciting, since I came into contact with some of my classmates, **with whom I did not talk**. So, this project helped me a lot.

On the other hand, there are some students who believe that working together with others is not fair for those students who study since the others become lazy. I think that this is not right, as working alone **becomes you egotistical**. **You only think yourself** and not others, something which is bad for everyone of us. You become more reserved and your only purpose is to improve your grade, without thinking that if you had worked with other students, you would not have been tired so much, or your project would have been better.

In conclusion, I believe that working together is better than alone for all the reasons, which I previously mentioned.

Comments on Evaluation

The writer uses a basic pattern of introduction organization, closely based on the prompt – generally well-executed, with a clear, if limited, thesis.

*The development of ideas is not-substantive, though points made support the thesis. A discussion of WHY learning to cooperate is important, or how group work achieves this learning, is missing. The personal reward of working with classmates **with whom the writer does not often speak** is a good point, but not clearly stated. The verb tense error creates the sense of an awkward situation, but that is not the writer’s intent.*

More grammar problems are seen here (becomes you egotistical – you only think yourself), errors that can affect meaning. Overall the essay develops a clear point of view and sustains an argument that hints at some depth – hence, the essay is a good example of a marginal pass at the C2 level.

CELP essay sample CP2

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Clear Pass” range

Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

As most people say, school is our second “home”. We go there from a very young age so as to learn the basics and then as time goes by, to gain more knowledge that will be needed in order to continue our lives. All students are examined and get a grades based on their work, their participation and behaviour in class. That’s why schools make their own rules and strategies so as to make students work harder and pay attention to their teachers during the lesson. It’s usual that students create groups, choose a topic, and study it. It’s a good way of learning because you get used to co-operating and studying more.

However, many students complain that when their final work is graded, they receive lower marks than they had expected. Why does this happen? Who is the factor of it?

School means studying and learning. Each student has their own way of getting the information needed. Not all students are smart but this doesn’t mean that they shouldn’t try. In order to avoid this, teachers put students into groups. There they may be encouraged on learning more by the best students. They need to be motivated. Also, groups can offer co-operation, relish studying with your best friends etc. At the end, each student gets a grade for their work. This should be done because occasionally lazier students depend on their friends and do not participate in their study. As a result, measures should be taken.

Groups are a way to show your ability and your skills about one topic. But being a member of it doesn’t mean that you abuse the others. It’s unfair when good students get lower marks due to the lazier students, nor should the second ones get higher marks than they worth. Teachers should be careful and probe the work of each

Comments on Evaluation

While the introduction is somewhat belabored as the writer spends a lot of time simply describing school, there is a clear movement toward an argument that is carried throughout the essay. The essay displays a good range of vocabulary and grammatical devices, but also has several errors in each. There is both a generally logical flow and a substantial development of the thesis in this paper.

Some parts of this paragraph are less coherent than others: What is it that teachers are avoiding by putting students in groups? One can infer that a lack of motivation is the problem the writer wishes to address, but the lack of cohesive devices to connect thoughts and sentences is somewhat distracting. This is indicative of a good writer, but not an excellent one.

Spelling, word form, S/V agreement and some less than accurate uses of vocabulary can be seen here, but overall accuracy

member of the group. Moreover, they should not grade students according to their final work but on their own. In this way the **unfairnes** to the good pupils and the ignorance of the bad ones will be avoided. Each student **has their value** so we should not “lower” them.

To sum up, team working is a nice way to learn as you are with people you want, you can show your skills and help others to improve themselves. However the grades that the student take, should be right and not benefit those who didn't participate in the team work. Teachers should be careful with their marks or else this could set a precedent.

is strong.

The essay makes a clear argument that group work can be useful, but that basing grades on group work can be quite unfair. Some sentences and expressions are less clear than others, but overall this writer has communicated several ideas well in a short amount of time. This is characteristic of a clear pass.

CELP essay sample HP2

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Honors Pass” range

Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

Nowadays, it is a common practice in high schools and university classes for the teachers to require their students to form groups and work on specific projects. In addition, often the groups are formed by teachers as an effort to bring together students that do not know each other. Lately, group projects are considered to be essential for the enhancement of the student’s communication skills.

Furthermore, group projects create different feelings for different students. That is, some students are satisfied to receive a grade based on group work, while others feel that group grading is unfair because often some people work more than others. Hence, students that have put a lot of effort on the projects have a sense of inequity, while they might also feel manipulated by the other members of the group. What is more, working within a group with people with different perceptions, lack of communication takes place, causing various conflicts.

On the other hand, managing to work within a group is an essential skill, very appreciated in contemporary society. Therefore, it is important that students learn to work within a group and cooperate with each other in order to achieve common goals. In addition, teams are often better because when a lot of people brainstorm, a variety of creative ideas may result. What is more, through group projects **students are prepared for their future professional lives where they will be obliged to work in teams**. Hence, they must master their skills in communication properly within a team and be able to listen to other people’s views and opinions.

Comments on Evaluation

The writer chooses to define the purposes of group work as a preamble to the discussion rather than create a clear thesis. Organization and development are strong, and the conclusion finalizes the writer’s argument; the lack of a traditional thesis should not count against the writer. The writer presents an argument against the first position clearly, although the use of “furthermore” creates the idea that this paragraph is part of the introduction. When that word is removed, the paragraph is clear. The student’s “pro” argument is well articulated with sophisticated, accurate grammar and vocabulary, and well developed details. The perfect use of passive and future passive indicate a highly competent C2 level writer.

In the conclusion, the writer again considers the

To conclude, although group projects might cause conflicts and feelings of unfairness, it is essential for the students to understand the importance of group work. Through this process students will overcome the group problems and become skilled communicators. Therefore, students must look for the benefits of teams and realize that in their professional life the ending results are always evaluated as a team work rather than as an individual.

“con” arguments and “overcomes” them. This essay is a good example of an “honors pass” at the C2 level