

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> say where you saw the article say who you are say why you are writing 	<p>Dear Editor,</p> <p><u>I am writing with regard to the article entitled, “Cellphones Banned in Schools”</u> that appeared in your newspaper yesterday. I am a high school student and <u>I would like to express my opinion on</u> the government’s new rule about cellphones.</p>
Body Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> state your opinion give examples / reasons why you agree with the article Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give examples / reasons why you disagree 	<p>First of all, I would like to say that the Department of Education is completely wrong. <u>In my opinion</u>, banning cellphones in schools is not a good idea. <u>I believe</u> students need cellphones to keep in contact with their parents during the day and after school. If I know, for example, that I am going to be late, I use my cellphone to call my parents and let them know. <u>Also</u>, if an emergency comes up, students can use their cellphones to get help.</p> <p><u>I would like to add</u> I agree that isn’t right for students to send messages during lessons. I believe cellphones should be switched off in class. However, I think that using a cellphone at school is no reason to be suspended. <u>Furthermore</u>, teachers have also been seen using their cellphones during class time. In my opinion, something should be done about that too.</p>
Closing Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> say you hope your letter will be published 	<p><u>I hope that my letter will be published and that my views will be taken into account.</u></p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Panos Pappas</p>

Answer the questions about the model letter above.

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

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

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING
Referring to the article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have just read your article about 	Expressing your opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Stating which action you want the editor to take <ul style="list-style-type: none">
Saying why you are writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Adding information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	

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

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 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restate the topic in your own words give your opinion 	<p>Cellphones are very popular today. It would be hard to find a teenager who doesn’t have one. <u>In my opinion</u>, cellphones have become a necessity for teens, but I do agree that they are often used at the wrong times and in the wrong places.</p>
Body Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give reasons / explanation for your opinion Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give reasons why the other side is wrong state your opinion 	<p>Cellphones are useful and even vital for teens today in several ways. <u>First</u>, parents can be in contact with their children at any moment with the cellphone. Teens today have so many after-school activities and they often need to be picked up or driven somewhere. If they are early or late, they need to be able to contact their parents. <u>In addition</u>, there are many dangers in society today. Having a cellphone allows teens to call the police or their parents for help.</p> <p><u>On the other hand</u>, 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. <u>In my view</u>, 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.</p>
Closing Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> summarize the points made and restate your opinion in a different way 	<p><u>In conclusion</u>, I believe that cellphones are important tools that make teens and their parents’ lives easier. <u>However</u>, their use should be restricted in some places like the classroom.</p>

Answer the questions about the model essay above.

1. What is the writer’s opinion about the use of cellphones?

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2. What is the connection between the opening paragraph and the closing paragraph?

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

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS			
Expressing your opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Introducing your ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Showing the opposite view <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Summing up <ul style="list-style-type: none">

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to the article say who you want to nominate 	<p>Dear Editor,</p> <p><u>I am writing in response to the article I read in yesterday's newspaper about student representatives to an international exhibition.</u> I would like to nominate my friend, Stephanie Dimou.</p>
Body Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to the qualifications mentioned in the article Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to the personal qualities that make the person suitable for the position 	<p><u>I believe Stephanie would</u> make an excellent representative of our city <u>because</u> she has many of the necessary qualities and qualifications. <u>First of all</u>, she speaks English perfectly. She received both the ECCE and the ECPE certificates. She <u>also</u> speaks Italian quite well. She has lived in our 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 visit our town or even come to study at our university.</p> <p><u>In addition</u>, Stephanie is a hard-working person. She would have no 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. <u>Finally</u>, 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.</p>
Closing Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> thank reader for considering your choice repeat your belief that your nominee is a good choice 	<p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to</u> nominate my friend to represent our city. I hope she is chosen because I believe she would do an excellent job.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Eleni Jones</p>

Answer the questions about the model letter above.

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

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING
Referring to the article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Repeat name and say why <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Thanking the reader <ul style="list-style-type: none">
Giving your nomination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would like to nominate ... for the position / scholarship / award. 	Linking words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First of all, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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*.

Plan	Model Essay
Opening Paragraph 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduce the topic in an interesting way give an overview of what will be covered in your essay 	<p>Representing one's country is an honor that should not be taken lightly. When choosing a representative, we should make sure that the person has an in-depth knowledge of our country, the right personality traits and a good appearance.</p>
Body write a paragraph about each point mentioned in the opening Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to the person's knowledge Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about personality traits Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about appearance 	<p><u>First of all</u>, a person representing my country should have enough knowledge to be capable of answering any question about the history or present situation in the country. At an international exhibition, many people might get their first impression of our country from our representative and it is important that this impression is a good one.</p> <p>The personality of the representative is <u>also</u> very important. He or she should be friendly and outgoing. Being able to speak well in several languages, especially English, is always an advantage. Of course, the person should also be willing to work hard.</p> <p><u>Furthermore</u>, appearance is also an important factor. Someone who is well groomed and looks good will attract others to our country's exhibition, giving us a better chance to inform more people about our country.</p>
Closing Paragraph 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sum up the main points covered in the essay 	<p><u>To sum up</u>, the representative of our country should make the best statement about our country. He or she should be intelligent and well spoken, and should look good too.</p>

Answer the questions about the model essay above.

- Circle the sentence in the opening paragraph that mentions three things a person should have in order to make an excellent representative.
- What is the connection between this sentence and the three paragraphs in the body of this essay?
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- Add the underlined expressions in the model essay above to the box below.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
Introducing your reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Giving more reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Summing up <ul style="list-style-type: none">

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*.

Plan	Model Letter
Opening Paragraph 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refer to the article say who you are say why you are writing 	<p>Dear Editor,</p> <p><u>I am writing with regard to the article entitled, “Vandalism on the Rise,” which appeared in your newspaper yesterday.</u> I am a high school student and <u>I would like to give some suggestions on how we can solve this serious problem of vandalism.</u></p>
Body Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give specific ideas or suggestions and say why they would be effective Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make another suggestion and say why it would be effective 	<p><u>To begin with,</u> we must have more police patrolling the city center, especially at night when vandalism occurs. <u>In this way,</u> either the vandals will be caught or they will be frightened away. <u>Another solution</u> is to encourage citizens to be aware. Citizens could keep an eye out for vandals and call police if they see vandals at work. This idea would help catch the vandals without having extra police officers on the streets.</p> <p><u>One way to solve the problem of graffiti</u> is to give graffiti artists a place to paint. In this way, they won’t paint all over buildings and walls in town. Also, if there is a competition involved, artists will do their best and the paintings will be of better quality.</p>
Closing Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> thank the reader for the opportunity to offer solutions express a wish that your letter will be published 	<p><u>Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. I hope you will consider publishing my letter.</u></p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alex Houtis</p>

Answer the questions about the model letter above.

1. The writer makes three suggestions in the letter. What are they?

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

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS		
OPENING	BODY	CLOSING
Referring to the article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Listing suggestions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Thanking the reader <ul style="list-style-type: none">
Saying why you are writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Explaining how your idea would work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing this would help 	Ending politely <ul style="list-style-type: none">

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

“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 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduce the topic in an interesting way state that solutions can be found 	<p>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.</p>
Body Paragraphs 2-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer the first question give solutions on how to solve the problem explain how each solution will help 	<p>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.</p> <p><u>There are several steps that can be taken to stop vandalism.</u> <u>The first is</u> 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. <u>Another idea is</u> to form citizens' groups. These groups would keep their eyes open and call the police as soon as they see vandals. <u>One way of solving the problem of graffiti</u> 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.</p>
Closing Paragraph 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give a general comment on the problem and say you hope that your suggestions will help solve the problem 	<p>In conclusion, if we all work together, we can solve the problem of vandalism once and for all.</p>

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.	