



WritePlacer[®] ESL

Guide with Sample Essays

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Introduction to WritePlacer® ESL

Prompts within the ACCUPLACER® System have been carefully designed so that the student can respond quickly and in a variety of ways. Prompts are free of technical or specific literary references and do not require specialized knowledge. The prompts are designed to stimulate critical thinking and are relevant to any number of fields and interests. Students will be asked to draw on a broad range of experiences, learning and ideas to support their point of view on the issue in question.

Scores on WritePlacer ESL range from 1 to 6. An essay that is too short to be evaluated, written on a topic other than the one presented, or written in a language other than English will be given a score of zero. A prompt consists of a short passage followed by an assignment that asks the student to focus on the issue addressed in the passage.

Instructions to Students

Writing an essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express your ideas in writing. On the next screen, a brief statement will be presented, followed by an assignment that relates to the statement. You should respond to the assignment by writing an essay in which you develop your point of view. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position you take will not influence your score.

Your essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively you expressed your position. The following four characteristics of writing will be considered.

- **Word Use** – The extent to which you are able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- **Sentence Use** - The extent to which you are able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- **Grammar** - The extent to which you are able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.
- **Organization and Development** - The extent to which you are able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.

Sample Prompt

Passage

A woman recently received an inheritance of \$25 million from an unknown, distant relative. She cannot decide what to do: spend it, save it, or give most of it away.

Assignment

If you suddenly received a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

Sample Essays

On the pages that follow there are descriptions of each of the eight WritePlacer ESL score points followed by two sample essays that were assigned the indicated score. Annotations are provided for each essay explaining why the essay was given the score it received. Studying these sample essays and the accompanying annotations will point out the elements considered during the scoring process.

SCORE of 1

Description of Score of 1

A response in this category demonstrates little competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits a simplistic expression of ideas and little to no development or organization.
- The writing sample exhibits a very limited range and variety of simple words and word phrases. Frequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling obscure meaning.
- The writing sample is typically characterized by short, choppy, simple sentences.
- The writing sample exhibits little or no control of grammatical forms.
- Sentence punctuation is omitted or used incorrectly.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 1. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 1

If I suddenly received a large sum of money. One first thing I'm give some money help for children hospital, I am helping get well and happy. Because I think they are happy me happy too, then after that I am come my country. Because my country have a lot of poor people need helping. They are need food and healthy. And the last think I would like to travel around the world helping poor people them neee. That all my decide.

Annotations

This writing sample demonstrates a simplistic expression of ideas and little development or organization (*One first thing I'm give some money help for children hospital . . . then after that I am come my country*). Frequent errors in word selection and word forms obscure meaning, and the writing sample exhibits little control of grammatical forms (*Because my country have a lot of poor people need helping. They are need food and healthy*). Exhibiting little competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample receives a score of 1.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 1

If i suddenly recevied a large sum of money , I gave most of it away . I gave most of money for the people that they need this money . Someone that don't have job , or he or she can't do job ,because he or she is sick .They can use the money for their life .Their children can go to school , in cold weather can wear warm clothes , they can eat good foods .

If i suddenly received a large sum of money ,I can spend one part of my money to my friends that they need money to do everything that they want .they can give me my money later , or when they don't need my money.

Annotations

Demonstrating little competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample exhibits a simplistic expression of ideas and little development or organization (. . . *I can spend one part of my money to my friends that they need money to do everything that they want*). The writing sample displays a very limited range and variety of simple words and word phrases (*Someone that don't have job, or he or she can't do job, because he or she is sick*) and there is little control of grammatical forms. Sentence punctuation is often used incorrectly. This writing sample earns a score of 1.

SCORE of 2

Description of Score of 2

A response in this category demonstrates limited competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits rudimentary development of ideas with an inconsistent ability to express ideas clearly in an organized pattern or with sufficient supporting details.
- The writing sample exhibits inconsistent competency in word use containing commonly used words and word phrases. Frequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling often obscure meaning.
- The writing sample exhibits inconsistent control of sentence use with some evidence of control of simple sentences. Commas and periods may be used to mark sentence boundaries, although there are many errors. Minimal attempts to coordinate sentences and to use subordinate clauses may be evident. Errors in grammatical forms are numerous.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 2. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 2

If I would receive a large sum of money,that lots of things I want to do.As a student,I want to get more and more knowledge and look around the world,so I wish I can study abroad,to know different culture of some countries,that I must need a large sum of money to support my study plan!

Of course \$25 million are a large sum of money,except help me to study plan,I could do other things.I think many people will use these money to buy cars,houses,...and so on,but I don't agree with these are good ideas.If you only use money but don't make more and more money,that one day,most of your money will be spent out.I have a future plan.I would find a company,at the first it must a developing company and it have a huge developing space.That I will use my money to give it some help.In the future when I have finished my study plan,I think I could get more money and use these money,maybe I can build a company by myslef.I'm not only see one \$25 million!

In fact,I always consider the money is a tool,it used to help me to get my each purpose.'m a person,my life is the "running".When I make out a dream,soon I have a next dream.At the last you will find that you get your dream,the money only is a number!! think I will give all of my money to many poor ares in the world,use my power to help as more as possible people get their dreams.

Annotations

This writing sample demonstrates rudimentary development of ideas and inconsistent competency in word use (*I'm a person, my life is the "running" At the last you will find that you get your dream, the money only is a number!*). Frequent errors in word selection and word forms often obscure meaning (*Of course \$25 million are a large sum of money, except help me to study plan, I could do other things*). Commas and periods are used to mark sentence boundaries; however, there are many errors (*As a student, I want to get more and more knowledge and look around the world, so I wish I can study abroad, to know different culture of some countries, that I must need a large sum of money to support my study plan!*). Exhibiting limited competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample receives a score of 2.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 2

If I suddenly receive a large sum of money, I can't decide easily, neither. Like, when I go shopping many things look good, so I want to buy all of them. But I have too much money, I would hesitate and couldn't decide.

ok, I got plans with it.

First of all, I will deposit half of it. I think bank is safe place. And I will buy ticket for going to Europe. I have to reserve hotel, too. (I want to go especially London)

I want to take trip as long as possible. And I go to shopping mall, I will buy gift for my family, friends and many things for trip.

If I have enough money to buy house and car, I will buy that. And I will hold a big party in my new house, or reserve convention room. I can't forget famous band.

Before going to Europe, I will give some money to my family. (I think my dad will buy many things for fishing and climbing, mom will save that money, my sister will buy clothes, brother will buy computer and games. No wonder.)

At last, I send some money to poor family with no name.

And then, I will go to air port to have a great time in Europe.

How about my plan??

If you have a plan better than mine, tell me.

I will think about yours.

Annotations

This writing sample displays limited competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, exhibiting an inconsistent ability to express ideas clearly in an organized pattern (*And I will buy ticket for going to Europe. . . . Before going to Europe, I will give some money to my family*). Frequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling often obscure meaning. Although minimal attempts to coordinate sentences are evident, errors in grammatical forms are numerous (*If I suddenly receive a large sum of money, I can't decide easily, neither. . . . but I have too much money, I would hesitate and couldn't decide*). This writing sample merits a score of 2.

SCORE of 3

Description of Score of 3

A response in this category demonstrates emerging competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits an emerging use of paragraphs and topic sentences while it may lack overall focus and development.
- The writing sample exhibits an emerging use of complex vocabulary. Errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling sometimes obscure meaning.
- The writing sample exhibits an emerging use of complex sentences but with distracting errors in word order and punctuation.
- The writing sample exhibits emerging control of grammatical forms, such as verb tense, with varied and numerous errors.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 3. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 3

If I suddenly receive a large sum of money which is my dream, first, I'll organise a big party. I'll invite all my cosins and freinds and I'll buy them a lot off things. The second thing I'll do is to buy a housse and especially a car for my husband. Than I'll pass to the most important project. As me and my husband are doctors in our country, we can't exercise here in USA. in fact, I'm able to spend all my money to release this dream. To do this, we have to learn english very well, because we must have a hight level in english to hope to pass the test to take residency. So, we'll registrate in the most serious schools and offer the most interesting books. When our english is too good, we'll start to prepare the medical exam. This one is very difficult, so during this preparation we could not work, so I'll reserve a sum of money especially for shopping, and medical cares until the day of the exam. Of course medical school are very expensive. Registrations only need a lot off money, don't forget books which are expensive too. But I'm ready to spend all my money until the last cent to become a doctor in USA. If we'll pass this exam, beore we'll start residency we'll need a rest, so I'll buy two tickets for me and my husband to visit our parents. After this, my husband will continue his studies and we'll try to have a baby for who I'll offer beautifull things and I'll spend with him a nice time. When he will be three hears old I continue my studies.

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits an emerging competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, but it lacks overall focus and development. Errors in word selection and word forms sometimes obscure meaning (*As me and my husband are doctors in our country, we can't exercise here in USA. in fact, I'm able to spend all my money to release this dream. . . . So, we'll registrate in the most serious schools and offer the most interesting books*). The writing sample demonstrates an emerging use of complex sentences; however, distracting errors in word order and punctuation occur (*After this, my husband will continue his studies and we'll try to have a baby for who I'll offer beautifull things and I'll spend with him a nice time*). Varied and numerous errors in grammatical forms also occur. This writing sample merits a score of 3.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 3

If Someday i recive a large sum of money like the woman of the exmple.One of the first things i would do is to take a nice trip to Europe and Know all the historical places.It Would take a really long time but it's worthy.

After travel over europe My Second Choice would be to get a really nice guitar gear.Lots of new Music Equipment.And play like a freak for a couple of years.Use money to have a nice OWN Studio and do some nice recordings.

When i achive the mini-musical adventure i would do some business for sure.To be more specific i would be really pleased being inversionsit.One of my first invest would be in Telecommunications Commanys and liquor enterprises too.Winnos and Internet obsessives will exist almost forever(HHAHHAHA).Nice money on those Markets.

If those three points come true it would be a plseasure to become an Philathropist Help People of the world with bizarre diseases.People suffering of Hunger.I think when you have nothing to care about in your persola life you start to care about others people way of living...Am I right????(HAHA).I would like to save some dolphins too..NAH..No way.I think I wouldn't be a nice philanthropist.But i would give it a try 100% Sure!.

Then after all those no-sense ideas i would like to re-join Musical Studys.To know some more of my beloved art Music especifically guitar.I woulb be composing all day long and studying how to handle Harmonies in every way it culd be possible.Finally i would dedicate all posible time to teach my kids how to do a relationship with music and real life...thats a big bizarre issue you gotta believe me guys!.

Well those are the basic ideas that comes to my mind.I think most of it are dreams of childhood but who isn't still a child on his own mind most of the day? I think everyone of us have a kid in our brain but we have to know how to control him perhaps i cant control him much.I think many of us were dreaming at 10yo with being A Super-Sports-Star.This childhood dream keeps me awake many nights thinking in how to become a Football Super Heroe it never happened but i still remember with some melancholy.I think i have nothisg to add here now im leaving.See you good luck.

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits an emerging use of paragraphs and topic sentences; however, it lacks overall focus and development (*If those three points come true it would be a plseasure to become an PhilathropistThen after all those no-sense ideas i would like to re-join Musical Studys*). Although there is an emerging use of complex vocabulary, errors in word selection and spelling sometimes obscure meaning (*When i achive the mini-musical adventure To be more specific i would be really pleased being inversionsit*). Distracting errors in punctuation occur (*After travel over europe My Second Choice would be to get a really nice guitar gear. Lots of new Music Equipment. . . . Use money to have a nice OWN Studio and do some nice recordings*), but an emerging control of grammatical forms is evident. Demonstrating an emerging competency in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample earns a score of 3.

SCORE of 4

Description of Score of 4

A response in this category demonstrates moderate control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits moderate control of focus, organization, and supporting details, with a sense of audience awareness. The writing sample exhibits evidence of the use of a prewriting strategy.
- The writing sample exhibits moderate control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary but with some distracting errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.
- The writing sample exhibits moderate control of complex and varied sentence structure.
- The writing sample exhibits moderate control of grammatical forms. Repetitive errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar are distracting but may not interfere with comprehension.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 4. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 4

If i suddenly recieve a large sum of money i would do three things with it. First, i will give a part of it to the charity. Second, i will buy a house for my family. Third, i will save a part of it for me so that i can start my own business when i am ready.

First, i will give a part of it to the charity so that they could help the poor people. I believe that if i help them god will help me. I have seen the life of poor people, they don't have good clothes, they don't have enough food to eat. They live in slums. When poor people get sick they don't get the best medication. I will help those poor people by paying a part of my money. So that they could have enough food to eat and good clothes to wear. They could have the medication when they get sick.

Second, i will buy a house for my family. We live in an apartment and there is not enough space for us to keep our things. We cannot even speak loud and cannot listen to music loud. we cannot cook outside the apartment, we cannot play in front of the door. We cannot have a dish outside on our air conditioner. In our house we will be able to almost any thing we want. We can listen to music as loud as we want, we can speak loud, we can play and cook in the backyard of our house, we can have a dish on the roof of our house.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 4 Continued

Third, i will save a part of it for me so that i can start my own business when i am ready. I will go to an expensive college and get the best education which i will need to start my business. I can make a lot more money if i start my own business than working on a job for another company. I will also be my own boss. I don't have to listen to anybody else or there will be nobody to give orders to me. I will become a lot richer than before if i start my own business. I will be able to give jobs to a lot of people who need them.

Finally, if i suddenly recieve a large sum of money i will do three things. First i will give a part of it to the charity. Second, i will buy a house for my family. Third i will save a part of it for myself, so that i can start my own business when i am ready.

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits moderate control of focus, organization, and supporting details and displays evidence of the use of a prewriting strategy (*First, i will give a part of it to the charity. Second, i will buy a house for my family. Third, i will save a part of it for me so that i can start my own business when i am ready*). The writing sample demonstrates moderate control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary (*I will go to an expensive college and get the best education which i will need to start my business*), but some distracting errors in word selection and word forms occur. Repetitive errors in punctuation and other aspects of grammar (*I have seen the life of poor people, they don't have good clothes, they don't have enough food to eat. . . . We can listen to music as loud as we want, we can speak loud, we can play and cook in the backyard*) are distracting but do not interfere with comprehension. Displaying moderate control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample receives a score of 4.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 4

Many people would spend all the money to themselves if they get a chance to have it. But if I get to have a large amount of the money, I will do something different from other people. If I receive a large amount of the money I would save some but give half of them to my family or to my parents.

The reason why I want to save it is because, first, I can use them for later. If I have to use the money for buying a present or have to pay for my college money I can use the money and pay it. That way I do not need to ask my parents for the money and make others think that I do not have any money to myself.

Second, I can save them for emergency reason. Just in case my house gets on fire or my car gets broke down or somebody steals something from me, I can use the money to get a new house or fix the car or reward a person who finds the thief.

Third, I can use them for myself. If I want to go to a vacation, I can use the money for the plane ticket or to pay the train to go to any country that I would like to visit. In addition, I can spend the money for entertainment. I always wanted to go to Broadway show. If I get the money I would take my friends to New York and watch the show.

But I want to give the half of money to my parents or to my family. Because if my grand parents gets sick or they get into the accident and do not have enough money to pay the hospital bill, I can certainly help them by giving the money that I have. Also if one of my family member wants to open a store or wants to go to a vacation or to trip with their friends, I can give some money to make them do what they want to do.

Most people says that a person would do anything to get a money or if they have a money. Receiving a large amount of money would make me think lot of stuff or makes me do lot of things. But if I have a large amount of money, I am not going to have all of them to myself. I am going to share my joy and luck with people that I care about. So again, I will give some to my family so they can help themselves with it and have some for myself and enjoy what I have.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 4 Continued

Annotations

This writing sample demonstrates moderate control of focus, organization, and supporting details and exhibits evidence of the use of a prewriting strategy (*If I get to have a large amount of the money, I will do soemthing different from other people. . . . I would save some but give half of them to my family*). Although the writing sample displays moderate control of complex and varied sentence structure (*Just incase my house gets on fire or my car gets broke down or somebody steals something from me, I can use the money to get a new house or fix the car or reward a person who finds the thief*), some distracting errors in word selection and word forms occur. While there are repetitive errors in grammatical forms (*Most people says that a person would do anything to get a money or if they have a money. . . . If I have a large amount of money, I am not going to have all of them to myself*), these errors do not interfere with comprehension. Exhibiting moderate control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample earns a score of 4.

SCORE of 5

Description of Score of 5

A response in this category demonstrates consistent control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details, with a sense of audience awareness. The writing sample exhibits the use of a prewriting strategy with some analytical development.
- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary, but there may be a few distracting errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.
- The writing sample generally exhibits consistent control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure.
- The writing sample exhibits consistent control of grammatical forms. Some errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar may be distracting but do not interfere with comprehension.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 5. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 5

If I suddently received a large sum of money, at first I wouldn't know what to do with it. Maybe the first thing that would come to my mind would be to spend it all on those who I care for and me. But than it would probably take me a while before deciding what to do with it. I wouldn't know what to spend it on or who to give it to. I would defenetly go crazy. But after I'm calm, I would sit down and make up my mind and decide if I would keep the money and buy all of the things that I have always dreamed of buying, or if I would just give it all away to help all of the poor people around the world.

But if I was to keep the money, I would buy my mom a huge luxurious house. This house would have an enormeous kitchen just like my mom would like it. The house would have to have six bedrooms and five bathrooms, a big living-room and a big dinning-room. It would also nedd to have a big back yard, because there would need be enough space for a swiming pool. Than after I would buy my mom, my sister, my daughter and my self a brad new car. Than I would pay for all of my sister's, my daughter and my college expenses. Than we would go shopping, we would have to travel to New York California and Miami to get all the latest things in fashion

Than we would go to Mexico, travel all Mexico starding from the north and ending with the south. Than go to Italy I've always dreamed about going to Italy and while I'm there probably buy a house over there too, I would buy it in Rome or in Venice. Than come back to Reno live at my mom's huge house go to college watch my daughter grow and give all the rest of the money left to my mom. That way she wouldn't need to work ever again

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 5 Continued

But let's be realistic it would be nice having and doing all of those fun things, but there are people who would need the money more than I do. People who are dying cause of hunger, kids who don't have a warm house or even the basic staf that we have like clothes and shoes. I would create a foundation specially to help those poor people all around the world. I would buy an airplane so I could personally take all of the things people donate. I would like to help all the poor people around the world. I would take the cane food, clothes, money and would teach them how read and write. Ofcourse I would need the help of other people because I couldn't do it buy my self. With all of the money that I would have I would biuld schools, houses and hospitals for them. My goal would be not to have poor people all around the world, it would be a great satisfaction to accomplish that.

When you do or buy things for your self it feels good but I've learned that when you do or buy things for ohter people you get a greater satisfaction. That is why I would rather spend all of the money on those poor people, I would love to help them out. It would be better to use the money for a good cause such as this one. And I think that our wourld would be different if we would all help out thoses people just alittle bit. But this is who I spend the money on, if I suddently received a large sum of money.

Annotations

Displaying consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details, this writing sample exhibits the use of a prewriting strategy with some analytical development (. . . *it would be nice having and doing all of those fun things, but there are people who would need the money more than I do. . . . My goal would be not to have poor people all around the world*). Consistent control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary is evident (. . . *I would buy my mom a huge luxurious house. This house would have an enormeous kitchen*), but a few distracting errors in word forms and spelling occur. The writing sample generally exhibits consistent control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure (*When you do or buy things for your self it feels good but I've learned that when you do or buy things for ohter people you get a greater satisfaction*). While there are some distracting errors in punctuation and other aspects of grammar, these errors do not interfere with comprehension. Exhibiting consistent control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample merits a score of 5.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 5

If I recieved a large sum of money, for instance \$25 million! I would send a portion of it to the countries that were hit by the biggest natural disaster recorded in the history of the world. After that i would ofcourse put some of that money into my bank account or i would plan on opening a small business. finally i would send the money that is left over to my country pakistan to the poor people over there.

Outof \$25 million i would send \$5 million to the countries where the tsunami hit to help the countries recover from this tragic event. The country can supply needs for the citizens such as food and shelter with the extra money they will be recieving. The money can also help the cost to rebuild the vecationing places that were also destroyed by the tsunami.

Well after the money is sent to the countries i would invest the the \$10 million into a small business that will keep my money comming in. A smart man always invests to double or even triple the ammount of his profits. I would buy a small franchise such as subway or a Burger King to keep the money flowing. Ofcourse i am also going to put some money in the bank to have a safe place just incase the business doesnt function probably. I would put \$5 million in the bank.

Finally with the \$5 million that i will still have left over i would send that money to my country to help the poor make a living. My country which is pakistan has the largest population of lower or even no class citizens. I am one of the lucky ones who has a golden oppurtunity to come here and make something of my self. so i would send the money over there to support the poor and provide them with food and the basic essentials of life.

In conclusion, these are the three things I would do if I suddenly recieved a large sum of money. Maybe I will donate a small portion of it to ST.Peter's college and than i can have my name on a big wall in of the campuses, wouldnt that be something?

Annotations

This writing sample exhibits consistent control of focus, organization, and supporting details and displays the use of a prewriting strategy with some analytical development (*Finally with the \$5 million that i will still have left over i would send that money to my country . . . I am one of the lucky ones who has a golden oppurtunity to come here and make something of my self. so i would send the money over there to support the poor*). There is consistent control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary (*A smart man always invests to double or even triple the ammount of his profits. I would buy a small franchise . . . to keep the money flowing*), but a few distracting errors in word selection and spelling occur. The writing sample generally displays consistent control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure; consistent control of grammatical forms is also evident. Some distracting errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar occur (*finally I would send the money that is left over to my country pakistan to the poor people over there*), but these errors do not interfere with comprehension. This writing sample exhibits consistent control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English and earns a score of 5.

SCORE of 6

Description of Score of 6

A response in this category demonstrates strong control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.

- The writing sample exhibits strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details, with a sense of audience awareness. The writing sample exhibits an insightful and engaging expression of ideas.
- The writing sample exhibits strong control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary, with infrequent errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling.
- The writing sample generally exhibits strong control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure, with few errors.
- The writing sample exhibits strong control of grammatical forms. Some errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar do not interfere with comprehension.

Shown below are sample essays that received a score of 6. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 6

The question is "What would I do if I suddenly received a large sum of money?" For myself this question will not be hard to answer.

I have been married for 16 years and began having children at the age of 20. I thought that I was mature enough to handle everything that came along with that responsibility, but I was wrong. I forgot about one of the most important parts of raising children and that is the financial responsibility. Ever since getting married and having children, life, financially, has been one long struggle. Everything from food and shelter to enrolling kids in extra activities to driving used vehicles. Everything costs money. Whoever said that money doesn't make you happy was an idiot. I have everything but that.

If I were to suddenly receive a large sum of money I know exactly what I would do. First and foremost, a vacation has been well deserved for a long time. I would take my family of four (and two dogs) on a fun, warm, exciting vacation to Disney World for two weeks and then to Cancun for another two weeks while I thought everything through. After the vacation I would then begin ordering all the material things we have ever wanted, within reason. These would of course be a new house, around 1800 square feet fully furnished with a huge kitchen. Then for sure we would be able to have a fully stocked kitchen. My kids could have their friends over to eat anytime without having to worry about budgeting the food for the month. We would have new furniture and everything would match. My husband and kids would then not be embarrassed to invite their friends over to entertain. Then of course we could have new vehicles, with warranties, so that we could take our family out to the beach and not be concerned whether or not the car would make it there and whether or not we could afford the gas. We have to budget that also.

The thing that would most excite me about this huge sum of money is that we could all get the educations we want and deserve. I am thirty six years old and just going back to school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. This is a very scary time for me but the scariest thing is the amount of sacrificing my family will have to do financially. The reason we have agreed on this sacrifice is so that I can get a job that can help support my children so they can get an education. I don't want them to have to take out student loans and start out in debt. This is just something I feel strongly about.

After all our needs and some of our wants are taken care of, I would then begin to help outside family and specific charities that I believe in.

Sample Essay #1 – Score of 6 Continued

I would love to donate money to underprivileged children who do not get the opportunity to play in extra activities outside of school, such as hockey and baseball. These activities were our saving grace. They have kept us busy as a family and they keep my kids off the street looking for trouble. Their time is occupied by these extra activities. I believe these activities, whatever they are, help build children's characters and teach them structure and discipline. Not enough money is given to these children to help out with equipment and out of town tournaments, so this is where the money could come in handy. In order for us to pay for these extras for my children I deliver the Leader Post every morning at 4:30 am. Not everyone can do this, so this is where I would love to help.

I believe that coming into a large sum of money at this time would be beneficial for my family because of everything we have gone through and learned about life. For other people who haven't been so lucky this money could be a downfall for them. I have heard of such horror stories.

In conclusion I would like to say that perhaps everything happens in life for a reason. Will I ever come into a large sum of money? Probably not but if I ever did trust me I would not have a problem spending it, after all you only live once.

Annotations

Demonstrating strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details, this writing sample exhibits an insightful and engaging expression of ideas (*I thought that I was mature enough to handle everything that came along with that responsibility, boy was I wrong. I forgot about one of the most important parts of raising children and that is the financial responsibility*). The writing sample displays strong control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary (*I believe these activities, whatever they are, help build children's characters and teach them structure and discipline*), although errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling do occur. The writing sample generally exhibits strong control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure, with few errors (*I don't want them to have to take out student loans and start out in debt. . . . After all our needs and some of our wants are taken care of, I would then begin to help outside family and specific charities that I believe in*). There is also strong control of grammatical forms (*I believe that coming into a large sum of money at this time would be beneficial for my family because of everything we have gone through and learned about life*). Exhibiting strong control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this writing sample merits a score of 6.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 6

There are lots of things that we can do with a large sum of money in this world. We can spend them for ourselves or spend them for others. Since my parents are busy working to make a living for their four children, and I am interested in volunteering, I would spend that large amount of money for my family and volunteering.

First, I would use some of the money for my family to ease my parents' burden by paying tuitions and loans and to show my thanks for them by making a family trip. Since my family has four children who are all enrolling in certain kinds of schools, it is hard to pay all educational fees while they need other money for the necessities in daily lives. Moreover, as I am studying as an international student outside my home country, it requires much more money, even twice as much as usual students spend for their tuitions and living things in my home country, Japan. So it would be quite helpful for my parents to pay tuitions and fees of all their four children. Also, I would use that money for loans of our house. Seven years ago, my parents bought a house in a city, which is convenient for children to go to schools, and which is comfortable for my entire family to live in. The loan will not be completed even my parents became old enough to retire their jobs. It could harden their lives since they have to pay for house loans after finishing and retiring their jobs. Therefore, I would like to use the money for paying house loans to ease the burden of my parents so that they can seek their interests and hobbies to enrich their lives. To add to that, I'd like to spend that money to show my thanks to my parents and grandparents. They have been busy working to make a living for themselves and for their families. They've even sacrificed their times for their jobs, in other words, they've been trying hard to make our lives better by working extra hours. Because of that, I really like to show my gratitude for them by making family trips, where they can relax and enjoy their own time.

Next, I would like to spend that money for volunteering by donating and using them to join some volunteer works. I would donate part of them for the organizations like NGO, Red Cross, WHO and so forth to help people in the third world. Today, every single day, there are hundreds of thousands of people dying from disease, starvation, malnutrition and other reasons caused by poverty and lack of education. I believe that those money I donate would help improve their lives by educating them, constructing sanitary facilities, giving them medical care, and providing them foods. Also, not just donate money but I'd like to use them to join those works as a volunteer. I want to actually contribute to those works. But, it costs a lot of money if I go abroad to help people such as Sudan, Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia. So, I'd like to use it for my own experiences of volunteering.

In those ways, I would like to use a large amount of money if I receive it. I would spend it on my family and volunteering, in other words, on private concerns and social matters.

Sample Essay #2 – Score of 6 Continued

Annotations

Displaying an insightful and engaging expression of ideas, this essay exhibits strong control of focus, organization, and supporting details (*Seven years ago, my parents bought a house in a city. . . . Therefore, I would like to use the money for paying house loans to ease the burden of my parents so that they can seek thier interests and hobbilies to enrich their lives*). Despite some errors in word selection, word forms, and spelling, there is strong control of a wide and complex range of vocabulary (*. . . there are hundreds of thousands of people dying from disease, starvation, mulnutrition and other reasons I belive that those money I donate would help improve thier lives by educating them, constructing sanitary facilities, giving them medical care, and providing them foods*). Strong control of sophisticated and varied sentence structure is evident. The essay also demonstrates strong control of grammatical forms, and while it has errors in word order, punctuation, and other aspects of grammar (*Since my familyhas four children who are all enrolling certain kinds f schools, it is hard to paying all educational fees while they need other money for the necessities in daily lives*), these errors do not interfere with comprehension. Exhibiting strong control of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English, this essay receives a score of 6.