**GP Skills Development – Types of Essay**

## Essay Writing skills – Types of Essay

**1) Reflective Essay**

**What do we seek in our quest of unknown?**

**Consider the importance of colour.**

**Introduction**

* Overview – based on the trend / general observation – focus on the subjects mentioned in the question
* (Do not try to define)
* Set the perspectives of discussion on how the different areas of discussion are to be discussed.
* Must ensure that the focus of the essay is mentioned again

**Main body**

Presentation of the paragraphs based on the aspects of discussion.

(from least important to most important)

Conclusion

Your summarized points and opinions

# 2) Argumentative Essay (Agreement)

**Do you agree that with the emergence of New Media, there will be a greater need for censorship?**

**“Young people lead a life of apathy because they have no real sense of self.’ Do you agree?**

**Science and Technology undermines the youths. Do you agree?**

**Introduction**

* overview of the subjects – description of the subjects (do not try to define)
* link the subjects – provide an observation or trend or historical account
* set perspectives
* set your stand – may list your stand as one of the perspectives

**Main body**

1) Set perspective view 1: opposing view

2) Rebuttal: Prove why the opposing view is wrong

3) Set Perspective view 2:

* supporting point 1
* Supporting point 2
* Supporting point 3

**Conclusion**

Your summarized points and opinions with the focus on your rationality for agreement

**Essay Question 1**

**Is censorship becoming increasingly necessary in today's world?**

**Thesis – it is becoming increasingly necessary in today’s world**

**Changes in the modern society that demands the need for censorship**

**(economics, social, cultural, political, mass media (fake news)**

**Anti-thesis – it is unnecessary**

**(education, individual, culture)**

**Introduction (observation, perspectives, stand)**

Censorship has always been criticized by liberals as the violation of the rights of the individuals as it is seen as a measure that undermines freedom of speech. However, as our society becomes more complex, the result of higher degree of institutionalization and integration of diverse communities while the modern media technology advances, there is a call for the re-examination of the requirement of censorship to ensure that the detrimental effects of the mass media will not occur to undermine the development of a civil society. Therefore, it is indisputable to agree that censorship has become increasingly necessary in today’s world. (stand – thesis)

**Main Body (opposing view – view against my stand – the anti-thesis)**

For detractors who are against censorship, they would not agree that censorship is needed in the modern society despite the growing negative influences it imposes on the society as it is seen as a restriction of the freedom of speech. To them, it is imperative for the society to uphold freedom of speech as it is the fundamental right of any individuals in a democratic nation. Furthermore, the imposition of censorship is a complex notion to introduce due to the complexity in setting the yardstick as there are diverse opinions on this matter, especially in modern societies where multiculturalism is the explanation for the complexity.

(linking sentence – rebuttal)

Nonetheless, such an argument is questionable. In reality, the notion of freedom of speech we uphold faithfully does not benefit the interests of the masses, but only for the interest of the owners and operators of the media industry. As for the difficulty in setting the yardstick, it is often resolved with the yardstick set by the consensus of the majority. It is reasonable for the individuals to agree to the values of the majority as ‘the will of all’ as noted by John Jacque Rousseau is the social norm to be respected and accepted if one chooses to live in the society that advocates this value. Moreover, if we examine the complexity of the influence the mass media would impose on the modern society and various phenomenon that occur in this era, we will demand the imposition of censorship to prevent such negative development.

(linking sentence – supporting view – thesis)

One such complication that demands the imposition of censorship is the commonality of vices and morally degrading behaviours seen in our society made prevalent by the use of internet. Pornography and internet gaming has intoxicated the minds of many, especially the youths who are immature and are easily susceptible to temptations of undesirable values. Without censorship to regulate the accessibility of this information, the youths are likely to get addicted to the vices and fall preys to syndicate crimes as internet gaming are appealing to the young people. In a recent article in the Strait Times, there are reports of syndicate criminals in China using internet as a way to get youngsters to get addicted to gambling and made them indebted to loan-sharking activities subsequently. Thus, the need to stamp out rampant rise of syndicate crime and its adverse impact on youth would make censorship increasingly necessary.

The imposition of censorship is also deemed necessary when we consider the negative impact on social harmony and stability if freedom of speech is not made accountable. Deleterious and offensive remarks are often made through new media technology like Facebook, tweeters and blogs as they have made it very accessible and convenient for individuals to voice out their opinions. On a bright side, this technological development in the media industry empowers the individuals but on a dark side, the technological empowerment is abused as individuals are not held accountable for biased and defaming remarks, creating social disputes that undermines the society. Consequently, we can observe the rise of many cyber bullies among the young users of the internet whose behavoiurs are considered anti-social. From a wider observation, we can see how these remarks can incite racial tensions as seen by a recent YouTube upload of the racist remark made by a student in Berkley. The charges brought against three youngsters for their racist remarks over the internet under the Sedition Act by the courts in Singapore show how serious the government in regulation of freedom of speech as there is disastrous impact on the social fabrics of the nation, given its vulnerability as a multicultural society.

But the most pressing reason for the imposition of censorship is seen from how the new media technology is being used for ill political motive that threatens the political stability and security of the nations. Many of the infamous terrorist groups like Jammah Islamiyah and Al-Qaeda are known to exploit the use of internet to spread their cause and recruit new members to implement their terrorist acts. With the use of modern media technology, these terrorist groups would indoctrinate their values in their new recruits as the exposure is invasive and persistent through this personal and private form of interaction. From the arrest of the JI cell group in Singapore, it is noted that some of these members are recruited through the internet. Besides this perilous threat, the recent remarks made about the new People’s Action Party candidates, Tin Pei Lin over the new media platforms has drawn concerns from Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong that this will hurt the political leadership renewal for the country in the future. Thus, from both the imminent and future point of view, the lack of censorship can create dire consequence on the political front of a nation.

**Conclusion (retrospective summary / opinionated suggestion**

In retrospect, we can understand why censorship is not desired by the liberals but the complex development in the contemporary era will demand us to ponder over the need of censorship. These adverse developments that are realistically tearing down our social fabrics, undermining the civility and threatening our political security and stability and it is only through an effective regulation of the modern media technology that will ensure us from succumbing to the adverse impacts. However, there is a need to **develop an effective institution to perform this imperative task** to ensure that the new media is made accountable to reap the benefit of freedom of speech without making it an adversary of the society.

**2) Extent of Agreement**

**We have bred a world of ‘little emperors and empresses.’ To what extent is this true?**

**‘Raising sport to an international level is the responsibility of the government.’ How far do you agree?**

**Introduction**

* Overview of the subjects – description of the subjects
* State that the proposition exists but the extent of development is subjected to debate
* Set an approach of examination on how the extent of agreement is to be examined

**Main body**

1. develop a causation or link

* identify how the causation occurs
* state the extent of the agreement to this point

1. conceptualize another link

3) If the causation is linked, the extent of agreement is direct and the conclusion on the essay is extensively agreeable.

4) If the causation is not linked, the extent of agreement is not direct and the conclusion on the essay is not agreeable.

Conclusion

The extent of agreement must be developed in accordance to the manner how the essay is evaluated. Provide an analysis of the discussion based on the areas of discussion.

**To what extent does science and technology make us less human?**

**Point 1: Agree with the proposition that science and technology make us less human – Psychology – undermine our capacity to become less emotional**

**Topic sentence:** For those who argue that science and technology make us less human, their rationale stems from the belief that the science and technology will create psychological impacts that shape us to be rational and mechanical (more robot-like).

**Point elaboration:** Technological advancement has enabled humans to disregard the need for intuitive thinking and instead placed greater emphasis on task-oriented behaviour. For example, the standardization of procedures and work repetition in heavy industries have caused humans to be accustomed to the monotony of work as there is no need for independent thinking and questioning of practices.

For those who are in the academic fields of science and technology, the emphasis on dialectical thinking has shaped the way humans behave. For example, academics will pose ‘yes’ or ‘no’ surveys, which encourages respondents to think like robots. Furthermore, there is a higher degree of mechanization and conformation through the machines and computer software we used which will reduce our sensibility as a human being.

**Extent of Agreement (EOA) 1: We still have the capacity to empathize and feel, which is part of human nature**

However, it can be argued that we still retain our sense of humanity as it is part of our human nature to express emotions and feel. Throughout the human civilization, humans are used to interacting with one another, such as the expression of emotions. It is an innate part of us to empathise with one another as it supports the instinctive nature to ensure the survival of our mankind. Therefore, science and technology has improved our understanding of the world, which accentuated our sense of empathy, rebutting the argument that we are less emotional.