

**It is expected that in the future old people are going to outnumber young people in many countries. Do you feel this is a positive or negative development?**

In many parts of the world, the ratio of older people to younger people is swelling. Although an ageing population does pose a few benefits, it is felt that this trend is more negative than positive in nature. This will be shown by looking at how a large elderly populace strains a society's public health resources and deters a country's younger members from having children of their own.

For one, the aged require extra attention from a country's public health services, and this can put pressure on an economy. For example, ageing Canadians increasingly depend on free public health care that is funded by taxpayers. As the number of elderly Canadians increases, financing their medical needs is expected to put immense stress on the Canadian economy. Thus, this example makes it clear that growing numbers of old people in a society is a negative phenomenon.

In addition to this, younger people are often deterred from having children of their own when they are faced with the burden of caring for an elderly family member. In Japan, for example, fertility rates stagnated during the twentieth century in part due to the load many families had to bear in looking after older relatives. This example illustrates the link that exists between larger numbers of elderly people and reduced birthrates. As lower birthrates are typically unhealthy for a country, it is obvious that the trend of ageing populations is not a positive one.

As the above evidence shows, there are many drawbacks to nations with heavy weightings of old people. Despite this, it is assumed that little can be done to counter this development.

**Some people like to go to a live sporting event, while others prefer to stay at home and watch it on television. Which do you prefer? Discuss both views using personal examples.**

The manner in which people consume professional sports varies greatly from one person to another. **For some**, the true excitement of **the game** can only be properly experienced in person. **Others** contest that there are too many hassles that come along with attending live sporting events and would rather consume professional sports in the comfort of their own home. The benefits of **both positions** will be analyzed before a preference is shared.

**Firstly**, many prefer to attend athletic events in person to allow themselves to participate in the spectacle. **For example**, while visiting England, it became apparent to me that English sporting spectators take pride in participating as much as they can in professional football. **Those** unable to get tickets to games watch them in public places, such as at a pub. **Thus** to many, watching sports is a very social pastime and best experienced at the place where the match is unfolding .

**However, the above view** is not universally true. **Many people counter that** the most rewarding way to consume professional sports is to do so from the comfort of one's own home. **For instance**, it is much more common for North American baseball fans to tune in to games via radio or television than to attend these events in person. **For most of these people**, the hassle and daunting price of tickets is enough to put them off attending entirely. **From this point of view**, the merits of watching professional sporting competitions from one's own home can be seen.

**Although both sides of this discussion** contain indisputable virtues, it is felt that tuning in to sporting events from home is a much more convenient way to experience a professional game. **That said**, it is assumed that personal preference will always rule when it comes to deciding in what manner one should digest sports.

**Nowadays, young people admire sports stars though they often do not set a good example. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?**

The admiration young people hold for celebrities is not a new phenomenon. **Throughout/During** history, youths have been inspired by people with outstanding athletic ability. It is argued that this admiration brings with it more positive than negative **issues/ramifications**. This will be proven by looking at how sports figures both instill inspiration and teach life lessons to young people.

Firstly, celebrities often display extremely developed skills, which can help to spur young people towards **being/a life full of** physically active. For instance, school children are often driven to exercise in an attempt to **become/emulate** superstars, such as Sachin Tendulkar, Li Na and Kobe Bryant. As this additional exercise is good for their health, it is difficult to argue that the inspiration celebrities **bestow/leave** upon young people is entirely a bad thing. Thus, this shows that the admiration people hold for sports stars has positive **implications/reasons**.

Although the negative character **figures/traits** of many sports celebrities are often called into question, it is felt the public mistakes professional athletes make can act as good morality lessons for young people. A good **exhibition/image** of this occurred when Canadian runner Ben Johnson dishonourably lost an Olympic gold medal due to steroid use. This incident showed young people around the world that drug use is a shameful practice. As this example **illustrates/is shown**, often the public errors athletes commit can act as good lessons for adolescents.

After looking at the above, it is felt to hold athletes in esteem does not bring with it entirely negative consequences. It is assumed the historical admiration people **will retain/retain** for sports stars is not going to change into the foreseeable future.

## **Do you feel artists like writers, musicians and painters still have value in modern society?**

### **Discuss.**

The role artists play in modern society is an often debated topic. On the one hand, many people see art and culture as critical components to a society's image and sense of identity. Others, however, feel that the significance of a society's arts is overrated in the modern world. This essay will analyze both sides of this argument.

From one perspective, many people believe strongly in the value that artists bring to a society. For example, Bob Marley was a musician whose work helped to shape the modern cultural image of Jamaica and bring attention to global problems. Performers like Marley help their countries establish recognizable cultures upon which valuable industries and worldwide recognition can grow. It is thus clear why many argue that artists still bring value to modern society.

However, many counter that performers in the modern age contribute little of value to society. Many pop music artists in Canada play a good example here. Today, popular music production in Canada follows a very prescribed path. An artist's lyrics, image, sound and name are often decided by producers in an effort to maximize sales. The unfortunate result of this is that it causes a lot of Canadian music to sound the same. This repetitious quality to Canadian music and other modern arts of the world make it understandable why many feel artists contribute little of value to society.

Following this look, it is felt that most performers still produce work that benefits society. It is hoped, however, that artistic freedom be given to all performers, regardless of how society gauges their value.

**Violent films and TV programming are among the most popular forms of entertainment today. Why do you think these programs are so popular? Propose possible reasons to explain their large number of viewers.**

The popularity of various forms of media are usually very revealing of a society's collective psyche. Often audiences consume programming that allows them to experience an existence not available to them in their day-to-day lives, and this is thought to be the main cause for the dramatic popularity of violent art. This will be proven by looking at how violent media allows people to both explore certain curiosities and release tension.

Firstly, most legal systems around the world greatly reduce the amount of violence people experience in their daily lives. For example, in countries with developed legal systems, experiencing physically aggressive situations in real life is extremely rare. The irony is that this low exposure often piques a natural curiosity in violence among people. Violent media, therefore, is popular because it allows people to vicariously experience a fantasized situation without harming themselves or others.

In addition to this, violent media acts as an outlet for the natural aggression of human beings. For instance, most would agree that adolescents act more physically aggressive towards each other than any other age group. This aggression is usually thought to be a retained primitive instinct that predisposes adolescents to a natural degree of physical confrontation. Thus, a likely argument for the popularity of violent media among adolescents is that it allows them to release this pent up hostility.

After looking at the above, it is clear that there are multiple factors contributing to the widespread consumption of violent media. It is assumed that violent media will never be completely eradicated from a society.

**Should young children be encouraged to follow a strict set of rules based on cultural tradition or should they be allowed to behave freely? Discuss both and share your opinion.**

The level of freedom children are allotted varies from one culture to another. Among some, regimenting the behaviour of young children through strict traditional practice is thought to help them develop into skilled members of society. Others argue the removal of strict household regulations allows young people to develop a free, inquisitive and creative mind. Both points of view will be analyzed in this essay.

In one camp, raising children using a strict set of rules based on tradition is felt best. For instance, in Japanese society often young children are taught how to properly conduct themselves in all social situations, including the manner in which they address elders, give and receive gifts and ask for favours. As a result, Japanese society and the Japanese people are world renowned for their protocol, courtesy, attention to detail and charm. As these are very positive qualities, it is clear that many benefits arise from the employment of a rigid parenting style.

On the other hand, however, many feel providing young people with freedom fuels their appetite for creativity. American society, for example, is often mocked for its somewhat lax parenting structure. Yet despite this, the United States was and continues to be home to the creation of some of the world's most revolutionary products. Thus, it is clear that freer parenting models pose numerous benefits.

After looking at both sides of this debate, it is felt that a balance between protocol and free parenting structures should be sought after by guardians in the twenty-first century. This recipe is expected to become more prevalent in the years to come.

**With the growing availability of TV and Internet, radios will soon become obsolete. Do you agree or disagree?**

The radio is an invention that came to popularity in the twentieth century. Its technology revolutionized the manner in which people communicated. It is felt that although widespread use of the traditional radio may diminish into the future, it is a device that will never disappear completely. This will be shown by looking at trends in the growing car radio market and modern changes in the form of media that radios broadcast.

Firstly, as growing global affluence spurs demand for cars, radio use will also grow. For example, the booming vehicle market in China is causing an equally significant boom in radio set use. This is not a trend isolated to China; vehicle buyers everywhere are purchasing cars equipped with radio sets. Thus, this example clearly debunks the idea that radio use will be eradicated in the coming years.

In addition to this, changes to the content found on radio shows is creating new audiences and renewing the purpose of traditional radio sets. For instance, most Canadian radio stations today are live call-in shows. These sorts of shows have developed stable audiences over the last ten years, as this sort of entertainment is difficult to replicate using a television or the Internet. Thus, as this form of radio use will not shrink into the foreseeable future, it can be concluded that radios themselves will not become obsolete.

As the above evidence makes clear, radios will continue to hold a steady share of the global media market. It is assumed that this will hold true in the years to come.

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of maternity leave? Which side do you feel outweighs the other?**

Laws and social practices surrounding maternity leave vary widely from one country to another. Equally varied are the positions people take on whether maternity leave brings with it more advantages or disadvantages. A conclusion will be reached following this essay's discussion of these two positions.

On the one hand, the benefits young families receive from paid work leave are evident. For one, it gives new mothers a chance to properly prepare for the birth of their child and recuperate afterward. Not having to shoulder the financial burdens that come with taking unpaid leave, mothers can focus entirely on providing a healthy home environment for their new baby. Thus, the advantages that come from maternity leave are obvious.

However, paid maternity leave can also cause some hesitation towards the hiring of women, particularly among high-pressure corporate positions. For example, often companies in Shanghai will ask job seeking women whether they are married or not. By hiring unmarried women, these firms hope to circumvent the need to provide parental leave should one of their married employees decide to start a family. As these sorts of practices are not isolated to only Shanghai, it is clear that maternity programs have the disadvantage of indirectly encouraging sexism.

Following this look, it is difficult to say the disadvantages of maternity leave outweigh the advantages. Thus, programs that offer new mothers paid work leave are thought to provide more benefits than drawbacks. It is hoped that parental leave programs will continue to develop and improve into the foreseeable future.

**Some believe that students who fear their teachers excel academically. Others believe students work better when they have a friendly relationship with their teacher. Discuss these views and provide your opinion.**

Education styles vary from one place to another. Among some circles, it is felt that students who hold a modest level of trepidation for their teachers excel in their studies to a greater degree than students who consider their teacher a friend. Both sides of this argument will be analyzed before a conclusion is reached.

On the one hand, many contend that better academic results are attained by teachers who instill a degree of fear in their students. High school instructors in Shanghai, for example, have an extremely rigid teaching style that involves disciplining students for every mistake they make, no matter how small. Although this system may seem callous, it gets results, as Shanghai's high school students placed top in the world last year for an international standardized aptitude test. As this shows, students who are afraid of their teachers excel in their studies.

On the other hand, many people contest the above and argue that students who share friendly relationships with teachers work better. For instance, the American education system typically allows students to experience a much more intimate relationship with their teachers and many argue this helps implant young people with inspiration. As the US is the most innovative country in the world today, there may be some merit to this argument. Thus, it is understandable why many feel students learn to work better under this educational arrangement.

Following this debate, it is felt that a teacher should be approachable, yet a person who induces a healthy sense of fear and respect in their students. It is hoped this balance will be present in the teachers of the future.

**Public transportation could be made free of charge. Are there more advantages or disadvantages to this change?**

Most large cities today boast numerous public transit options, available to residents for a fee. Whether providing these options free of charge is a positive thing is often a highly debated topic. It is felt making public transportation available free of charge ramifies more advantages than disadvantages. This will be proven by looking at how a free public transportation system encourages more environmentally friendly living and provides accessibility to low-income individuals.

For one, encouraging people to use public transportation through fare elimination has many benefits to the environment. For example, as more people use a city's public transit system, the congestion that city experiences on the road is greatly reduced. Having fewer vehicles on the road in turn reduces a city's overall carbon footprint immensely. Thus, the benefit to removing public transportation fares can be seen.

In addition to this, allowing people to use a city's transportation services without charge can be exceptionally helpful to low-income residents. For instance, any city that employs this change would empower its people with the ability to live and work in entirely different parts of a city, regardless of their economical situation. This would thus heighten a low-income earner's chances of gaining financial ground. As this example shows, privileging a city's people with free transit service boasts more benefits than drawbacks.

After analyzing the above, it is clear that removing the fare charged to public transit passengers has more pros than cons. It is hoped this alternative is considered as a future growth option for emerging cities.

**Economic growth has helped to improve standards of living all over the world. However, some research shows that people in developing countries are happier with this trend than people in developed countries. Explain why you think this is.**

Developments in the global economy mean different things to different people. To some, recent growth may be coupled with a rise in standards of living, and thus seen as positive. To others, this growth brings with it increased global competitiveness, and is thus seen as negative. These particular opinions are thought to reflect the results of recent research indicating more satisfaction with global growth among the developing world than the developed world. Both sides will be analyzed in this essay.

It is easy to understand why global economic growth is welcomed among developing countries. In China, for example, young people today have vastly more developed lifestyles than their parents or grandparents. Today many Chinese people consume luxury goods, an ability not possible 30 years ago. From this example, it is easy to understand why people in developing countries see current global economic growth as a reason to be happy.

However, the economic rise of developing countries makes for more competition among developed countries. For example, microprocessor design, a field once dominated by countries with highly developed education systems, is now an area developing countries are making serious inroads into. Because of this, the once technical giants of the developed world are now seeing their market share decline. This example makes it clear why developed countries are not entirely happy about the economical growth of developing countries.

It is felt the above reasons explain why research results indicate the opinions of developed and developing countries contrast. These viewpoints are not expected to change much into the foreseeable future.

**Some people believe advertising causes more harm than good to society. Others refute this. Discuss both views and share your opinion.**

One of the main stimulants of consumerism within a country is advertising. As such, advertising can be seen as a necessary practice within any healthy economy. But often people counter this by saying that too much exposure to commercial promotions can cause societal problems. Both sides of this argument will be analyzed before a conclusion is reached.

On the one hand, advertising stimulates healthy spending, which can grow economies and create jobs. Take Coca-Cola, for example. Coca-Cola is a company that spends massive amounts on marketing every year. Because of this, it has become a brand that is recognized in the most remote corners of the earth. This level of recognition allows even the smallest of vendors anywhere in the world to create wealth through providing an attractive product with a powerful brand to potential customers. Thus, it is understandable why many people believe the benefits of advertising outweigh the drawbacks.

On the other hand, it is purported by many that advertising has negative ramifications on societies. For example, at Christmas time, American children are often the target of very elaborate marketing schemes hatched by large companies looking for holiday sales. As these sorts of campaigns can induce children to become overly concerned with commercial matters, many people worry this may interrupt their development as moral people. When seen in this light, it is clear why many people feel there are more drawbacks than benefits to advertising.

Following this look at both sides of the above debate, it is felt that advertising is much more positive than negative in nature. It is thus expected that the role of marketing within modern economies will not change much into the foreseeable future.

**Some people focus on national news, while others think it is more important to be aware of international news. Discuss both views and offer your opinion.**

Most would argue a basic understanding of events at both a national and international level is important. Whether one is more important than the other, however, is difficult to say. Both opinions will be analyzed in this essay before a reasoned conclusion is drawn.

On the one hand, many people believe their nation's interior issues should take reporting precedence over exterior ones. For example, elderly people in Canada, who tend to travel less than their younger counterparts, often focus on local news issues. The reason for this is that these domestic stories apply more directly to day-to-day life in Canada, and this is an area of news Canada's elderly people are interested in. As this example shows, it is understandable why some people focus their attention more on national news reports than international ones.

However, on the other hand, others feel thoroughly understanding international events is more important than focusing on local news. People who typically share this point of view usually defend it by arguing that as cultures, economies and borders blur, a proper understanding of the world is necessary to retain competitiveness. Young people, such as university students, act as good examples here as their lifestyles employ more foreign travel and thus require a working knowledge of developments on the global stage. Thus, it is understandable why this point of view has garnered support.

After analyzing all sides of the above debate, it is argued that being equally versed in both national and international news is important. Thus, it is considered impossible to state that one of these reporting types is better than the other.

**Today's food travels thousands of miles before it reaches customers. Why is this? Is this a positive or negative trend?**

In today's world, the laws of supply and demand dictate the distances foodstuffs must travel before they are consumed. Often certain geographical areas are favourable for the production of particular foods. It is argued that the extreme distances some foods travel before reaching their consumers reflect positive trends occurring around the world. This will be shown by looking at the cultural and economic benefits that derive from international trade in edible goods.

For one, the trading of food between countries can be seen as evidence of cultural amalgamation, and this is a positive thing. For example, Japanese sushi, once considered an oddity among American circles, is now consumed as regularly in the United States as many American dishes. It is felt culinary exchanges such as this are evidence of the world's ongoing growth towards a united culture. As the blurring of cultural differences can bring with it understanding, tolerance and peace, it is felt this example shows how the trading of foods over great distances can be seen as a positive thing.

In addition to this, the buying and selling of food among nations provides employment opportunities to workers around the world. For instance, global demand for coffee has allowed Columbia to exercise a geographical advantage it has in the production of this product. Because coffee can be shipped great distances without spoiling, this example acts as evidence of the benefits that derive from the transporting of foods to other countries. Thus, the positive results that come from foodstuffs traversing thousands of miles before consumption can be seen.

After analyzing how food permitted to travel around the world helps to create cultural understanding and stimulate economies, it has been proven that this brings with it more benefits than drawbacks. It is hoped the international foodstuffs trade continues to grow in an unshrinking manner.

**Recently a poll was conducted that revealed happiness levels in developing countries are higher than in developed countries. What do you think can be learned from this? Explain your views.**

Most would agree that the word 'happiness' relates to the level of contentment and fulfillment an individual experiences in their life. It is proposed that the recent poll revealing higher percentages of happy people among developing countries allows for the establishment of conclusions on the social structure and culture of individualism seen in developed countries. The legitimacy of these conclusions will be shown in this essay.

Firstly, the rigidity with which a developed country's social structure operates can be seen as one of the causes of lowered happiness levels. For example, 'model' students in the United States cannot simply have high grades but rather must strive to perfect themselves physically and morally as well. All too often, the stress of trying to fill this publicly accepted ideal lasts a lifetime. This example leads to the conclusion that the additional societal pressure experienced by people in developed countries reduces levels of happiness.

Secondly, developed countries tend to emphasize 'individualism' and this can also lead to unhappiness. For instance, young people in China often have a very close-knit family unit that can provide them moral support and advice throughout their lives. This sort of arrangement is not uncommon among developing countries, too. Developed countries, on the other hand, tend to encourage people to make their own decisions and to live with the consequences, which can often make people feel overloaded with burden. As this example shows, additional freedom can actually work against a person's level of happiness.

The results of the poll in question is felt to reflect the additional stresses people experience in developed countries. It is felt these same pressures will progressively become apparent in developing countries as they grow.

**Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

The beliefs and values of young people are shaped through a myriad of influences. Among the most major of these are a child's parents and teachers. However, it is argued that ultimately teachers have more influence than parents on the intellectual and social development of children. This will be proven by looking at how students are more attentive when interacting with teachers and how teachers engage students in an environment more conducive to emulation and learning.

Firstly, teachers have the opportunity to interact with their students during periods of the day when young people are more attentive. To illustrate, an American study once proved that human beings more readily commit new skills and ideas to memory in the morning as opposed to the afternoon or evening. As teachers spend five mornings a week with young people, this example makes it clear that they have an advantage over parents when it comes to developing a young person's mind. Thus, it is clear that teachers affect the intellectual and social growth of a child in a manner that the child's parents cannot match.

In addition to this, the classroom environment is a powerful place that puts a child in a frame of mind that encourages learning. For example, it has been proven that students who are home schooled tend to have more difficulty than classroom-taught students in absorbing the information their instructor presents to them. It is argued that this disparity exists because a classroom surrounds students with an environment of academia, and this promotes the acquisition of knowledge. As this sort of environment is not always present in a child's home, it is clear that teachers are in many ways more influential than parents in expanding a child's mind.

After looking at the above, it can be seen that instructors have advantages over parents when it comes to forming the minds of children. It is thus expected that the traditional classroom style of learning will not be drastically altered in the foreseeable future.

**The rate of unemployment in some countries is high. Because of this, there is no need to complete an education beyond a primary school level. Write an essay either for or against this position.**

Many would agree that learning and the pursuit of knowledge should be continued throughout one's life. Hence, the idea that education's only merit is the fact it can help a person attain employment is considered ludicrous. Thus, it is argued that education past a primary school level is needed whether unemployment in a person's country is high or not. This will be proven by looking at how education for education's sake leads to both individual opportunities and discoveries that benefit humanity as a whole.

To start, people who commit themselves to education regardless of work conditions in their country catalyze events that can lead them to professional and personal opportunities down the road. For example, during the Great Depression the United States experienced extremely high levels of unemployment for several years. Despite this, people remained committed to the powers of education and thus when the cycle of unemployment finished they were able to engage in skilled labour. These opportunities would not have been possible for these people without education. As this shows, snubbing academia when faced with high unemployment is a faulty strategy to follow.

In addition to this, the merits of education are not simply tied to a person professionally, as the pursuit of intellectual development can lead to inventions that benefit all humanity. For example, Steve Jobs released the iPhone after he turned 50 and this revolutionary product only came as a result of his lifelong learning. As this example shows, education can produce much more than basic employment options. Thus, people should take on the challenge of education regardless of the working situation in their country.

After looking at this subject, it is obvious that education brings more to people than simply professional chances and thus should be embraced in all business climates. It is hoped future generations choose a path of lifelong learning.

**A country's future depends on its young people. Therefore, a country should invest heavily in its youth. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

The youth of a nation play a critical role in a country's future. Thus, the manner in which young people are raised is intrinsically tied to the capabilities of new generations of workers. It is agreed that a country should invest considerably in its youth. This will be shown by analyzing how such a practice can lead a nation to international competitiveness and how it can lead people to more charitable lives.

Firstly, a state's ability to compete in the modern world is only as strong as its citizens' minds. Take the Japanese education system as an example. Despite the crippling effects of the Second World War, Japan's focus on education and the nurturing of academia played a part in leading the country to become the second largest economy in the world. This would never have been possible had the country not invested in and embraced the education of its young people. Thus, it is clear that a country's commitment to its young people has direct ramifications on its future.

Secondly, people who grow up with the gift of a proper education can do more to help the needy in their country. For instance, Germany is a state that produces large numbers of highly capable medical practitioners, and this allows all German citizens to receive quality medical attention. Were Germany as a nation to cease investment in young people seeking a medical education, this service to the public could not be provided as effectively. Because of this, it is clear that positive results come to nations that invest in their youth.

After analyzing how a country's focus on its young people can lead to economical strength and domestic social benefits, the link between investment in youth and a nation's future can clearly be seen. It is hoped the committing of national resources to youths is a practice employed around the world.

**Most children spend a lot of time watching television and playing computer games. Should parents limit the time their children spend on such activities?**

Most would agree that modern lifestyles involve a barrage of electronic distractions. Unfortunately, children engage these electronic pass-times for extended periods and this can lead to negative outcomes. Thus, it is argued parents should control the quantity of time children commit to idle endeavors, such as television, computer games and the Internet. This will be proven by looking at how engaging these sorts of hobbies for long periods of time can negatively affect a child's studies and health.

Firstly, children who idle away time in front of electronic toys tend to develop poor study habits. For example, a recent study in Canada revealed a negative correlation between the daily number of hours a high school student spends in front of the television and their marks in school. As this example shows, there is a clear and very obvious relationship between television exposure and academic performance. Thus, it is obvious that parents are best to restrict the amount of time children plug in to these sorts of mediums.

In addition to this, a child's health can be negatively affected via overexposure to electronic device usage. Take childhood physical development as an example. As most would agree, a child's physical development depends directly on their receiving a certain amount of exercise on a daily basis. This amount of exercise simply is not possible if this young person logs several hours in front of a computer every day. As this example shows, a parent's control of a child's media intake is required for the child's well-being.

After analyzing the negative ramifications too much exposure to electronic mediums can have on young people, it has been proven that proper parental guidance must include efforts to ration a child's television, computer and Internet exposure. It is hoped this essay helps persuade parents to more involved forms of parenting.

**In many countries, young children are looked after during the day while their parents go to work. In a sense, they are raised by guardians and not their biological parents. What is your opinion of this family arrangement?**

Customs regarding the raising of children vary from one culture to another. In many countries, children are cared for by daytime guardians while their parents work to build careers. It is argued that this form of rearing does not benefit children as much as when they are raised directly by their biological parents. This will be proven by looking at how such a family arrangement causes misguided values and feelings of abandonment among the young people in question.

Firstly, parents who choose their professional goals over raising their children run the risk of setting poor examples for their offspring. For instance, children of double-income families are often indirectly taught that money is more important than family unity. These children grow up with unhealthy opinions about the significance of income level and could potentially become adults who judge other human beings based on monetary status. As this reasoning shows, children are best raised by their parents.

Secondly, young children regularly separated from their parents may experience feelings of abandonment and this can lead to other problems. For example, it is a proven fact that Canadian children of single, working parents tend not to perform as well in school as their classmates from nuclear familial arrangements boasting a stay-at-home mother or father. This example shows that there is a clear link between a child's academic performance and the level of attention they receive from their parents. Thus, it is clear that young people are not benefited when they are raised by guardians.

After analyzing the above points, the merits of regular parental presence can be seen. It has thus been proven that parents should avoid working patterns that are detrimental to the development of their children. It is hoped parents everywhere commit to do what they can to ensure they are the primary guidance-providers of their young ones.

**Some people believe that advertisements targeting children may have negative effects on them, and suggest banning such advertisements as a solution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Advertising is a central component to the free market. As the catalyst for sales, it is not surprising that all divisions of a society are targeted, including the very young. However, it is argued that advertising aimed at children can have negative effects on them and should thus be banned. This will be proven by looking at how a child's diet and attention span are altered when they are exposed to certain forms of promotion.

Firstly, it is quite evident that a child's dietary preferences can be affected negatively by advertisements. For example, McDonald's television commercials in the United States often depict young children having larger than life experiences in their restaurants. Relenting to their children's nagging, parents can unfortunately allow the diet of their young ones to include fast food on a regular basis, thus leading to obesity. Today, the US has the highest rate of childhood obesity in the world and this indicates the negative ramifications targeted advertising can have on children.

In addition to this, advertising can shorten a child's attention span and create excessive feelings of want. Take toy commercials, for example. Children are barraged on a daily basis with commercials advertising a wide variety of toys. If children are actually given these toys, they often are quick to stop playing with them and desire something new. This shortening of a child's attention span can be seen as yet another reason why child-directed advertising lacks merit.

After looking at the above points, it is clear that promotional strategies focusing on the very young should be prohibited on the basis that they can lead to developmental problems in children. It is hoped parents everywhere monitor their children's exposure to such mediums.

**Some people believe that schools should group their pupils according to academic ability. Others believe students should be grouped together regardless of academic ability. Write an essay supporting one side of this debate.**

The classmates a student interacts with on a day-to-day basis make up an important part of their academic experience. Many believe that a pupil's learning is enhanced when students of varying academic skill surround them. However, it is argued that a student benefits most through regular interaction with students of similar intellectual potential. This will be shown by looking at how such an arrangement both poses healthy challenges to students and refrains from holding students back in their academic pursuits.

Firstly, by grouping students based intellectual strength, a classroom can provide an environment that engages young people at a level equal to their ability. Take language learning as an example. If a highly skilled language student is placed in the same classroom as a beginner, the class atmosphere is beneficial to neither. Further, it would be impossible for the teacher of this class to provide challenging material that caters to both student levels. Thus, the merits of classroom groupings based on skill level can be seen.

Secondly, intellectually superior students placed with less capable students may be held back in their studies. For example, Canadian public school systems do not categorize students based on their strengths, instead favouring to amalgamate all pupils into one collective class. Under such an arrangement it unfortunately becomes all too common for gifted students to be held back in their studies as their classmates struggle to understand basic concepts. As this example shows, arranging students by intelligence should be supported.

Following this look at class structure, it is felt education systems that discriminate between strong and weak students are beneficial to pupils as a whole. It is hoped these sorts of classroom arrangements return to popularity in the years to come.

**Most people watch foreign films before locally produced films. Why is this so? Would you support a government decision to invest in films in your country? Include examples in your essay.**

Today, select areas of the world boast well-established film industries. However, as most people do not come from countries with such film heavyweights, it is understandable why most movie consumers watch foreign films before locally produced ones. The Canadian government's financial backing of the local film industry is supported. The merits of this will be shown by analyzing how such a move could bring more recognition to Canadian culture and how a growing film industry could attract the talent of the world.

Firstly, a burgeoning film industry could expose Canadian culture to the globe. This phenomenon has already occurred in India's Bollywood. For example, movies like *Baghban*, which experienced moderate popularity in western countries, did a lot to promote international recognition of Indian family structure and culture. The same recognition could come to Canadian culture were its movie industry to grow in size. As this shows, a move to provide funding to Canadian moviemakers could have positive ramifications for the country at large.

Secondly, by providing the world a view of life in Canada through movies, greater pull for international talent could be established. For instance, many university graduates the world over travel to the USA to live and experience the images they know from the American movies they watch. They also bring with them the skills and abilities they have developed abroad and this make the United States a much more competitive country as a whole. Canadian movies could help to encourage a similar growth in international migration by doing the same and thus the benefits of funding such an industry can be seen.

After looking at how the government could promote the country's image as a whole by investing in the movie industry, it has been shown why this is a channel that should be pursued. It is therefore hoped steps are taken to provide support to Canadian films.

**Some people think it is our moral duty to help poor people. Some people think that big amounts of money do not reach the poor. Discuss and give your opinion.**

There is no question that poverty around the world is a major issue. However, often the responsibility and role the wealthy play in supporting the less wealthy is debated on both moral and practical grounds. Many believe as ethical human beings, people are required to support each other. Others feel the system for providing financial support is too flawed to be engaged. Both sides will be discussed in this essay before a conclusion is reached.

On the one hand, many people argue all humans have a moral obligation to help the less fortunate, and the merits of this are easy to see. For example, Mother Teresa devoted her life to rectifying dire living situations around the world. Her actions made it clear that a single individual can make a big difference, and this is the basis of the argument that all humans have a responsibility to each other. It is easy to see why many people support this point of view.

However, others counter this argument by citing basic flaws that make it difficult for modern people to help the poor. For instance, it is widely known that China's political system is rife with corruption. For Chinese people wanting to donate money, there is of course a possibility that established organizations for human welfare are equally as corrupt. Thus, many fear that any financial help they provide will not actually reach those in need. When looking at this example, it is clear why many support the idea that donating money is in many ways fruitless.

After analyzing both sides of this argument, it is felt perhaps the best way to help others is to donate time instead of money. It is hoped more people will do what they can for the benefit of those in need.

**Some people think that the government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists including painters, musicians and poets. However, other people think that this is a waste of money. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

An often debated topic is whether a government should provide its country's artists with assistance or not. Many believe such assistance is a prudent use of a nation's wealth and should thus be supported. However, others feel this kind of spending is wasteful. Both sides of the argument will be discussed in this essay before a conclusion is reached.

According to many, government funding of the arts can benefit a country's cultural identity. A good example of this is the anime art culture of Japan. Today, anime is a globally recognized art form and as such, a huge draw for tourists. As this shows, providing government assistance to artists can have positive ramifications across different channels within a country. It is thus understandable why many people support this stance.

On the other hand, many argue this kind of spending is wasteful. The core of this argument typically spotlights developing countries. People basically feel that among these countries government money may perhaps best be used to solve social problems, such as establishing safe drinking water and roads to rural communities. When looking at the discussion in this light, the merits in not utilizing government funds on artists can be seen.

After examining both sides of the question, it is felt that in most circumstances government assistance to artists begets greater benefits to the country at large. Thus, it is hoped nations around the world responsibly tailor financial aid to their artists in a manor that best benefits the needs of their people.

**Some people think that schools are merely turning children into good citizens and workers, rather than benefitting them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Education and the schooling experience have evolved in the wake of new technologies such as the Internet. This in turn has had a profound effect on the training students receive and the ultimate people they become upon graduating. It is disagreed that schools today are producing mechanically-thinking workers and refraining from developing students as individuals. This will be shown by looking at the current changes underway in both modern and traditional school systems.

Firstly, many modern school curriculums are becoming computerized and this is doing a lot to encourage student development as individuals. Take South Korea, for example. Traditionally, Korean classrooms were packed with forty students and this provided very little face time between instructor and pupil. However, under a new government policy, all students are to receive tablet computers to allow them greater opportunity for interaction with their teachers and each other. In addition to this, these tablet computers also provide access to other learning resources that may cater to the particular needs of gifted or challenged young people. As this shows, the argument that today's schools do not benefit pupils as individuals holds little merit.

In addition to this, trends within the developing world are also gravitating towards providing students with individualized school curriculums. In China, for example, middle and high school youths today are free to select a number of elective courses that allow them to demonstrate their skills in areas they are particularly strong in as well as develop their unique identities. As schooling continues to become more tailored to the needs of young people, it is difficult to see how the argument that schools do not produce dynamically thinking individuals holds much water.

After looking at how the world's schools are increasingly making efforts to meet the needs of individual students, it is hard to see the plausibility of any counter argument. Thus, it is hoped the educational experience of young people will continue to evolve in a manner that meets their needs.

**High school aged students should be taught how to manage money. Do you agree or disagree?**

Often, people debate whether personal money management is a suitable topic for a high school classroom. However, having an understanding of monetary manipulation is a skill that everyone in the world needs to have at least basic knowledge of. Thus, it is agreed that high school aged students should be taught how to manage money. This will be shown by analyzing how such a course can both instill good business sense in young people as well as prepare them for the working world they face after finishing their education.

Firstly, one of the merits of educating students about money matters is that it often fosters business success later in life. For instance, a high school friend of mine was taught how to manage money by his father, who owned and ran a car dealership. Today, this same friend runs a very profitable company, no doubt partly because of the financial information his father bestowed upon him. As this shows, providing young people with information regarding how to handle money is a good thing.

In addition to this, teaching adolescents about how to regulate their funds helps to prepare them for independence. For example, during my senior year in high school, I was privileged enough to be enrolled in an accounting course which taught a unit of study entitled 'Managing Money'. I found that the topics covered in this unit were extremely helpful the following year when I moved on to university and out of my parents' house. As my experience shows, teaching young people how to be financially independent can be helpful to them later in their lives.

After looking at how adolescents are benefitted through basic monetary instruction, it has been proven that this course of study is a positive thing. Thus, it is hoped that high school aged students the world over be exposed to some kind of training regarding the handling of money.

**The popularity of news media often has significant influence on people's lives. Some people believe this to be a negative development. Do you agree or disagree?**

Since the invention of modern media, news feeds have become an increasingly invasive force in the lives of all human beings. However, it is disagreed that the development of news media is negative. This will be shown by looking at how news media encourages both awareness and transparency within the world.

Firstly, modern media sources have made great inroads in the spreading of knowledge. For example, the Internet allowed (and continues to allow) the world to witness the uprisings of the Arab Spring. Had these images not been made available to a scrutinizing global audience, it is possible the entire phenomenon could have cost many more lives than it did. As this example shows, modern news media allows the human family to keep watch of each other and provide aid if it is needed.

In addition to this, news media sources have developed transparency and accountability the world over, which has done a lot to tackle corruption. Take the tragic high-speed train crash in China as an example. Despite trying to quickly bury the carriages involved, the Chinese government was forced to admit that serious corruption problems had plagued the project from the beginning. The healthy dialogues that the media coverage of this unfortunate event sparked will hopefully continue to encourage integrity within the Chinese government. It is for reasons such as this that news media should be thought of as a positive entity in the world.

After looking at how news media helps to develop awareness and transparency, its benefits can clearly be seen. It is hoped free press will continue to grow with the help of technology and modern tools.

**People nowadays live longer than they used to. What caused this situation? Is it a negative or positive development?**

People today enjoy longer life spans than at any other point in human history. The most notable causes of this are generally accepted to be the medical and technological advancements of the twentieth century and the heightened ability of nations to share information with each other. It is argued these advancements and the ultimate postponement of death yield positive results the world over. This will be proven by looking at how longer life spans give people more time to contribute creatively to the world as well as a chance to develop a heightened level of wisdom that only comes with age.

Firstly, the longer people live, the more time they have to create things and the richer human culture becomes. A tragic example of the caliber of talent humanity can lose when great creators die young is Mozart. Mozart died in his thirties, which was young, even for his time. Had he the privilege of living longer, he could have contributed so much more to the world. Thus, it is clear why the extending of the mortal deadline should be seen as a positive thing.

Another constructive quality that comes as a result of living a long time is wisdom. As most people would agree, persons of age tend to have a deeper understanding of the world than their younger counterparts. Thus, it is argued the collective wisdom of humanity could be increased simply by providing more people with the opportunity to live longer. It is for this reason that the idea of extending lifespan is considered a good thing.

After looking at how age allows people to create more in addition to awarding them wisdom, it is felt that the delaying of the point at which a person passes can only be seen as a positive thing. It is hoped human evolution will continue to postpone the inevitable arrival of death.

**In most parts of the world people are living longer. What are the possible causes of this situation? Is this a negative or positive development?**

Longevity in the world over has been increasing for a variety of reasons. Babies born today enjoy much longer life spans than those of their parents. It is argued that this increase is a positive phenomenon and that the main causes of it are both the deepening of medical understanding and the sharing of such information between people via tools like the Internet. These causes will be examined in detail to prove their value in the lengthening of worldwide life spans.

Firstly, medical advancements over the last century have allowed people to postpone death. Among the more significant discoveries that made this possible is the development of antibiotics. Antibiotics, now available to most people the world over, dramatically lower incidences of infection and have thus greatly curbed the number of people the world over who die due to diseases once thought incurable. Thus, advancements in science can be seen as one of the more major contributors to the extending of worldwide life spans.

Secondly, the Internet and the information shared across it has made the debunking of ineffective medical practices much easier. For example, medical folklore in countries like Ghana and rural China dictate new mothers avoid washing themselves for a month after giving birth. Before tools like the Internet, ridiculous and unsanitary practices such as this were widely believed to be in the best interests of the mother's health. Today, few people in either country would argue in favour of this postnatal tradition. Thus, the Internet has allowed people to share life-promoting information the world over.

In conclusion, human life is precious and the global extending of life spans should be seen as positive. It is hoped medical discoveries continue to increase in number and that access to the Internet continues to grow, allowing longevity to be a pleasure enjoyed everywhere.

**The costs of international travel are decreasing and tourism is growing. What are the advantages and disadvantages of increasing tourism activity in different countries?**

Tourism is often touted as an industry that will never shrink in size. In other words, as the world develops, more and more people will be able to travel. Although many may see this as a positive phenomenon, it is not a trend without drawbacks. Both the advantages and disadvantages of this topic will be analyzed before a reasoned conclusion is reached.

On the one hand, the reduction in travel fare and the increasing of global tourism can be seen as a positive event as it promotes intercultural understanding and global harmony. For example, many Middle Eastern states have opened their doors and embraced tourism over the last twenty years and this has helped shed prejudiced views internationally that all Middle Eastern countries are dangerous. This development clearly shows the benefits of an increasing international tourism industry.

In addition to this, tourism creates new opportunities for trade. For example, many Chinese tourists are bringing back products from foreign countries that are currently unavailable in China. These new trade ties are great for the health of the entire global economy and can be seen as yet another positive ramification resulting from increased tourism.

On the other hand, the international tourism industry does pose some disadvantages. For one, money travelling into countries through tourism can lead to the establishment of some morally questionable activity. To name a few, tourist hotspots in developing countries are often rife with theft problems, maimed beggars and prostitution. The inflaming of these issues as a result of increased tourism is an obvious disadvantage to the growing global travel industry.

Following this analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of tourism and the falling travel prices that are making it more possible, it is felt tourism has more benefits than drawbacks. It is hoped the growth in global intercultural understanding continues uninterrupted as tourism increases.

**Nowadays we see an increase in social problems involving teenagers. Many people believe that it is because parents spend more time at work and less with their children. Do you agree or disagree?**

The nuclear family of today is much different than that of fifty years ago. It is increasingly common for both parents to work, and this is often argued to be the cause of social problems among their teenage children. It is agreed that the social problems adolescents often experience are the direct result of their parents busy work schedules. This will be proven by looking at a Canadian case study of this phenomenon in action as well as the universal correlation that exists between youth social problems and neglectful parents.

Firstly, teenagers of absent parents often do not get the direction they need to develop as socially competent individuals. For example, it has been statistically proven that depressed teenagers in Canada typically interact with their parents less than one hour per day. This example makes it clear that without parental guidance, adolescent people develop social abnormalities. Thus, it is clear that parents need to prioritize more time for their teenage children, even if this means reducing the number of hours they work.

Secondly, statistics clearly show a link between parental neglect and the numbers of youths afflicted with social problems. For instance, the number of teenagers suffering with anxiety is a figure that moves in tandem with the number of dual-income households. The positive correlation between these trends makes it obvious that parents who work too much are acting as a detriment to the mental welfare of their children. It is thus clear that parents need to spend less time working for the sake of their offspring.

After analyzing this topic, it can be seen that parents who spend copious amounts of time away from their children cause more harm than good. Thus, it is recommended that the modern family budget time for their developing young people.

**Lectures were the traditional way to teach large numbers of students in the past. Now new technology is being used to teach students. Is this a positive or a negative development?**

With its growth, technology has permeated into all areas of society. Thus, it is little surprise that the education sector has also become heavily influenced. It is argued that the use of technology to teach large numbers of students is a positive development. This will be shown by analyzing how technology provides students opportunities for interaction and tools for effective lesson review.

Firstly, technology provides students with the chance to meet other students in their field and this can be very helpful to their studies. For example, during my sophomore year of university, I enrolled in a class that had a very active online forum. Anytime during the day or night, I could find classmates online to discuss ideas and solve problems with. As this sort of instant interactivity is impossible under a traditional educational setup, it is clear that technology brings many positive elements to education.

In addition to this, technology provides students with stronger tools for review. In my Twentieth Century English Literature course during my junior year of university, all of my professor's lectures were filmed and each student was issued a weekly DVD of this recording. When reviewing, this DVD was just as helpful as the notes I made during my professor's lecture. Traditionally, this sort of enhanced review would not have been possible and thus the merits of having technology as a part of the educational experience can be seen.

After looking at how technology helps to enhance student interactivity and their digest of information, it is clear that technology brings a lot to the classroom. The speed by which students are able to absorb information is thought to continue to accelerate with the help of technology.

**Providing children with pocket money on a weekly basis can benefit them in the future. Do you agree or disagree?**

Although sometimes a contested issue, it is argued that providing children with a modest amount of pocket money on a weekly basis is helpful to their development. This will be proven by showing how this practice helps children garner both basic financial skills and a sense of responsibility.

Firstly, giving children a small amount of money every week helps their early understanding of financial matters. For example, my friend's eight year old son has been given one Canadian dollar every week for the past year. When the practice was first commenced, this boy would often spend his money frivolously on items of little value. However, as time went on, he came to understand that if he postponed the spending of his dollar his overall wealth accumulated and this allowed him to buy items of greater value. As this example shows, providing children with pocket money every week leads them to have constructive experiences regarding financial issues.

Secondly, parents who issue their children a minute weekly allowance encourage the development of their child's sense of responsibility. For instance, in my own childhood I was given very small amounts of money every week and allowed to spend it freely. I feel having control over the use of these funds was one of the first major steps I took in my life towards learning how to become a responsible person. As my personal story shows, providing children with pocket money is a positive thing.

After analyzing how giving children a little cash on a weekly basis develops their financial comprehension and level of responsibility, it has been proven that this practice is more positive than negative. Thus, parents are encouraged to consider adopting this regime.

**Cultural traditions today are often used for money making purposes, especially in the tourism industry. Do you feel this development is more positive or negative?**

Today, the traditional cultural practices of many societies have become monetized. Although many may argue this is a negative phenomenon, it is believed that overall this trend tends to be positive in nature. This will be proven by looking at how monetizing cultural traditions helps to both create jobs and bring new audiences to old art forms and ancestral practices.

Firstly, the use of cultural traditions provides many of the world's unskilled people with a means to support their families. For example, in Kenya tourists often pay to experience Kenyan safaris and traditional fireside dinners and dancing. For the people who organize these tourist attractions, the exploitation of their cultural heritage provides them with honest work and a livelihood they can be proud of. As this example shows, the using of cultural traditions for money making purposes is more of a positive than negative thing.

In addition to this, the rejuvenation of old traditions for the purpose of making money brings new life and audiences to cultural practices that may have otherwise been forgotten. For instance, in China many tourists are willing to pay money to take part in the process of tea making. This ancient art form has thus garnered broader interest and a much wider audience. As this makes clear, the reawakening of a tradition is a positive thing and demonstrates why the idea of making money through the use of one's culture should be supported.

After looking at how the monetizing of ancestral practices both provides jobs and popularizes old art forms, it is felt this trend is much more positive than negative. Thus, it is hoped this phenomenon continues to grow in practice the world over.

**Why do so many people live lives full of stress and pressure? Discuss the reasons and give possible solutions.**

In the modern world, living a life rife with stress appears to be a fairly common plight. Although the reasons for this appear to be many in number, it is argued this unfortunate state of existence results from different causes in developed and developing countries respectively. These causes and their suggested solutions will be analyzed in this essay.

Firstly, it is argued that much of the stress experienced in developed countries comes as a result of the new economic competitiveness of Asia. Today, Indian and Chinese brands are becoming stronger and rivaling those of their Western counterparts. Although this competitiveness is good for the world's economy as a whole, there is no doubt that it is causing increased anxiety and feelings of unease among many Western multinationals as they work hard to maintain their market share.

Pressures in the developing world, on the other hand, are thought to be often caused by unrealistic ideals. For example, the Internet has opened the eyes of the world to the affluent living conditions of those in the United States. Although owning a large house and having multiple cars may be plausible for the average American, it simply is not feasible at this time for the average Chinese person. Thus, people living in China who hold their ideal living conditions to the level found in the United States are bound to burden themselves with unnecessary pressure.

After analyzing the major causes of stress and pressure in developed and developing countries, it is felt both groups could benefit from relocation. For those in developed countries, travelling to Asia would allow them to become a part of the growth happening there. For people hailing from developing countries, living in the West could make possible their ideal lifestyle aspirations. It is hoped this suggested solution helps to reduce stress and pressure in the world today.

**The international news is a source of knowledge about the world. How far can journalists be trusted? What are the qualities of a good journalist?**

Many feel that perfectly objective journalism is impossible and that all journalism contains some degree of subjectivity. In light of this, it is argued that 'good journalists' are those who make efforts to reduce subjectivity in their reporting, mainly via two methods. Firstly, they choose to report for agencies that allow them freedom of press. Secondly, they accompany their reporting with primary sources of data they have garnered themselves to help add additional objectivity to their story.

Firstly, good journalists are those who work without being subjected to third-party influences. For reporters working for the Chinese Xinhua News Agency, this is unfortunately impossible. Stories reported by Xinhua must be initially approved by China's ruling government party. Of course, the political agenda of the party calls into question the credibility of all Xinhua reporting. As a result, the quality of anything a Xinhua reporter says is greatly tainted by the agency for which they work.

Further, good journalists must also make efforts to report on data captured from primary sources. For example, independent news agencies such as CNN capture most of their videos directly where they occur. These videos allow viewers to draw their own conclusions regarding worldwide events and thus add much more objectivism to the stories they report. Thus, good journalists are those who make efforts to present facts with as little subjective comment as possible.

To conclude, good journalists are people who can both work without third-party influence and who can capture primary sources to accompany their reporting. It is felt that only those journalists who can practice the above should be trusted.

**We are now surrounded by advertising. Further, the amount of advertising in the world is increasing at an alarming rate. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this phenomenon.**

The amount of advertising in the world has indeed been snowballing as societies increasingly embrace a more capitalist style of economic organization. Although this trend brings with it a number of positive ramifications, negative aspects are also quite numerous. Both sides will be analyzed in this essay.

To begin, advertising begets wealth and wealth begets opportunities for employment and economic competitiveness, and this is a positive thing. Take China, for example. Today, most Chinese city roads are awash in advertising. This advertising does a lot to encourage spending, which acts as a cornerstone for the development of any economy. As spending increases, demands for jobs increase and as jobs increase, the overall wealth of a people grows. Thus, advertising can be seen as the base of economic development and as a critical tool to the developing of economies.

However, despite the positive things brought about by advertising, it is not without negativity. To take the Chinese example further, advertising within China has spread from cities and permeated natural areas of the country as well. The tea mountains of Hang Zhou, a once picturesque landscape, are now an eyesore as they are covered in billboards. Thus, it is argued that advertising contributes negatively to the aesthetic quality of many natural regions.

Although opinions surrounding the merits of advertising are mixed, it is felt the growth of advertising is much more of a positive than negative trend within the world. Thus, for the sake of economic development, it is hoped advertising increases the world over and helps to bring people together through the sharing of global brands.

**In the past, people wore traditional clothes, spoke languages and practiced activities as dictated by their regional culture. These days, the world's cultures resemble one another quite closely. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?**

Globalization has brought with it both positive and negative developments. On the positive side, it has encouraged the world's people to grow closer together through common culture and language. On the negative side, it has caused the customs of certain people to become forgotten. Despite this, it is argued the merging of the world's lifestyles is a beneficial trend. This will be proven by analyzing how common ideology and culture help to reduce both incidences of war and hate crime.

Firstly, countries that share common attributes tend to be less likely to engage in war with one another. Europe acts as a good example here. Only one hundred years ago, many European countries warred with each other over ideological differences. Today, after major movements towards cultural, economical and linguistic unity, these same countries are proud to be united under a single heading, the European Union. The now peaceful temperament of Europe acts as good evidence to the benefits that come through the blending of ideologies and cultures.

Secondly, the merging of global lifestyles poses a negative correlation to the incidences of hate crimes, and this is a very positive thing. For example, membership to organized hate groups, such as the Klu Klux Klan, has fallen drastically over the last century in North America. This drop occurs simultaneously with the immigration rises that occurred during the same period. Thus, it can be concluded that the mixing of cultures directly reduces hate crime.

After analyzing the manner in which globalization minimizes both the chances of war and crimes motivated by hate, it is concluded that this is a trend that brings positive results to the world. It is hoped the mixing of cultures increases globally into the foreseeable future.

**In many countries, crime is increasing. What are the main reasons for this? What can be done to improve the situation? Support your position with relevant examples and include your own experience.**

Although it is arguably impossible to pinpoint a single cause for the recent rise in global crime, the main culprits are thought to be poverty and political oppression. A commonality between the two appears to be the dissatisfaction of a people. Thus, it is argued that global crime can be reduced through measures that promote public feelings of well-being and security. To prove this, strategies that reduce poverty and oppression will be analyzed.

Firstly, encouraging prosperity among poverty-stricken areas can be a very powerful tool when combating crime. For example, a once dangerous area of my hometown in Ottawa has undergone major infrastructural development over the past twenty years. The addition of schools, libraries and quality health facilities led to the establishment of a new economical status for the people who lived there. With the rise of this new affluence came a major fall in crime rates. This clearly shows how tackling the issue of poverty creates inroads against violations of the law.

In addition to this, providing people more political freedom can also reduce crime. For instance, over the past ten years China has increasingly allowed critical comment of its ruling party to appear in local newspapers. Despite the fact that this level of freedom pales in comparison with many other countries, it is felt this thawing of political control has done a lot to reduce crime rates across the country. Thus, providing increasing levels of political freedom can be seen as a measure to combat crime.

After analyzing the reduction of poverty and political oppression, it is felt that crime is best tackled by reducing the causes of unrest among people. By following this course of action, major reductions in global crime rates are expected.

**Even though developing countries receive financial help, poverty is still an issue. Some say these nations should be receiving other kinds of support to eliminate poverty. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give examples and suggest what form of help can be offered.**

Today, financial aid packages are regularly given to developing countries, however the effectiveness of this practice is often debated. As the saying goes, 'giving a person a fish will feed them for a day, but teaching them to fish will feed them for a lifetime'. In line with this proverb, it is argued that providing specialized skills and education to people in developing nations is much more helpful than the simple donation of money. This will be shown by analyzing how such a strategy could allow a developing country to create employment as well as robust infrastructure.

Firstly, providing people specialized skills helps to develop industries and create jobs. Take the relationship between the United States and India, for example. Many American companies and government bodies have invested in training Indians to handle customer service calls. This once niche Indian market has now become an incredibly large industry and as a result of its growth has created a tremendous number of jobs. As this shows, providing developing countries with specialized skills is much more constructive than providing funds.

Secondly, improving a country's infrastructure is considered to be one of the cruxes of a developing economy and this can be accomplished through education. For example, the entire Chinese driving experience appears to have been modeled after that found in the United States. By mimicking this highly developed infrastructure, China is providing better access to its smaller towns and cities, which creates more opportunities for business establishment and economical gain. Thus, helping developing countries to grow their infrastructures can do more for poverty than charitable monies.

It is felt that poverty is best combated through the providing of specialized skills and education and that the supporting points provided in this essay have proven this. Thus, it is hoped that these strategies are adopted among countries with high incidences of poverty.

**The quality of life in big cities is worsening. What do you think the reasons are? What can you suggest as a solution?**

Today, the world's biggest cities continue to swell in size as increasingly more people are choosing to migrate towards an urban lifestyle. Often the drawbacks of this phenomenon include the worsening of the overall quality of life found there. It is proposed that when cities grow rapidly in size their infrastructures often cannot keep up thus causing a noticeable drop in life quality for certain parts of the city. Using the larger cities of China as examples, the effectiveness of migration control and public transit will be analyzed.

As the economic hub of China, Shanghai has long tackled the problem of over-migration using strict migration laws, called 'hu kou'. 'Hu kou' dictates a series of restrictions that a migrant must abide to when working or living in a region that is not their own. For example, migrant children who travel to Shanghai with their parents do not receive any medical coverage or education funding from the government. As can be expected, the hu kou laws are very effective in keeping Shanghai's migration rates down and quality of life up. Thus, migration laws are argued to be an effective solution to the falling lifestyle levels of cities around the world.

In addition to this, a comprehensive public transit system can do wonders for a city's quality of life. For instance, prior to the Beijing Olympics, congestion was a major problem in China's capital. With the construction of new subway and bus lines, Beijing became a much more comfortable place to travel around in. Although at first this may appear to be an insignificant change, to the people that experience Beijing transit everyday this development did a lot for their daily stress levels, and thus can be seen as an effective boost to the quality of life within the city.

After analyzing how migration laws and improved transit have helped improve the quality of life experienced in Chinese cities, it is felt these methods could also be effectively applied to other cities in the world. It is expected that life quality in the metropolises of the globe will remain high so long as infrastructure maintains pace with growth.

**Some say that public health is important and there should be more sports facilities. Others say that they have a small impact on individuals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Sports facilities are employed in an effort to promote public health. Despite this noble goal, often the true ramifications of such institutions are thought to be mediocre at best. This essay is going to analyze whether sports facilities contribute positively to communities, or whether they deliver too small an impact to be considered truly beneficial.

On the one hand, many proponents argue the general health of a population could suffer if a dedicated facility is not created in a city. For example, in big concentrated cities like Shanghai, there simply is not the space for individuals to exercise safely. Thus, if there were not sports facilities, people simply would not have any means of getting physical exercise. It is for this reason that opinions supporting the construction of athletic resources can be understood.

On the other hand, many individuals would claim sports facilities pose little, if any, real impact on the public. For instance, in addition to the housed sports facilities discussed last paragraph, Shanghai has a tremendous number of smaller public exercise equipment available in parks and residential areas. Although created with the best intentions in mind, these facilities are typically without accompanying instructions outlining how to use them. As a result, they are rarely used at all. In this case, it is obvious why many feel certain sports facilities are ineffective and a large waste of money.

After looking at both the arguments of those in support of public sports facilities and those in opposition, it can be concluded that dedicated athletic bodies offer more to a community than they take away and thus should be considered a valuable part of any developing metropolis. It is hoped more recreational athletic resources are created for public use in the future.

**Some people think it is better to give donations to local charitable organizations, while others choose to give to national or international bodies. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant example from your own knowledge or experience.**

Today, there is a vast number of charities collecting for an equally vast number of causes. In addition to choosing a worthy cause, philanthropists must also take into account the integrity of the organization collecting charitable funds. Opinions are often divided on whether it is better to give to local organizations or larger internationally-run charities. Both sides of this debate will be analyzed before a reasoned conclusion is found.

On the one hand, many people feel local charities are the better organizations to donate to. In a sense, these sorts of charities tend to produce more measurable results, and thus the person making the donation is more able to see exactly what their donation is going towards. A good example of this can be seen in my hometown, Ottawa. In Ottawa, every Christmas marks a time when used toys are collected and redistributed to underprivileged children around the city. The transparency of this exchange makes it understandable why many may feel more confident when donating to a local charity.

On the other hand, larger international charities do a lot to stabilize global inequalities. For example, vaccinations in many countries would not be possible were it not for the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Although the results of a person's donation may not be as easy to detect as with local charities, international groups such as this radically alter lives and living standards around the world. The drastic differences created by larger international groups make it obvious why they have won the support of many.

Following this look at local and international charities, it is felt both give tremendously to the human family, and thus to declare one better than the other is simply impossible. It is hoped in the years to come that global generosity increases and that extreme poverty is eradicated.

**Some people think that foreign visitors should be charged more than locals when they visit culture and tourist attractions in a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

It is difficult to name a major tourist attraction in the world that refrains from swelling the prices it offers to travelers. Indeed, this is perhaps a practice that has been exercised since the inception of the tourist industry. Despite its longevity, it is disagreed that foreigners to a country be charged more than locals when visiting major attractions. The merits of this argument will be shown by analyzing the its morality and overall economical feasibility.

Firstly, charging a person more money for a product or service simply because they are from another area is a form of prejudice and should be condemned as immoral. In China, for example, most people who are not Asian-looking are charged a premium for any purchase they make, regardless of whether they are a tourist or not. This shows how the practices of charging tourists inflated prices can spill over into even non-tourism related transactions. Most would agree that such a racially-motivated pricing scheme is morally unjust and thus the idea of charging tourists more than locals should not be supported.

Secondly, it should be remembered that it is in a country's best interests economically to encourage repeat visitors and emigration by providing a pleasant experience for its tourists. For example, although tourist attractions in Dubai are expensive, they fit the pricey temperament of the entire city and thus do not leave a visitor feeling cheated. Coupled with the courtesy of the people and welcoming business climate, it is no wonder the United Arab Emirates boasts more foreign than local residents. This willingness of skilled foreigners to emigrate to a country can thus, in part, be attributed to the positive experience they have during their initial visit.

After looking at the immorality and economical ineffectiveness of inflating prices offered to tourists at major attractions, it has been proven that fair pricing is a superior policy. It is hoped the worldwide pricing inequalities between tourists and locals will be challenged.

**Many old cities around the world are going through a major process of modernization. What are the advantages and disadvantages of modernization?**

Here is my suggested response:

A new wave of industrialization has taken the developing world by storm. Among many of these countries, a policy of fast-tracking has been adopted, often producing mixed results. The advantages and disadvantages of the rapid modernizing of many old cities around the world will be analyzed in this essay.

Perhaps the most significant advantage of this process is the raising of living standards. For example, many second tier cities in India have seen a boom in the quality of life found there. Thus, the collective effort being made in India to modernize is also having a positive impact on the lives of Indian people. From this perspective, modernization can be seen as a positive thing.

However, despite this advantage, there are also notable disadvantages to fast-tracking development. For one, rapid modernization often involves the destruction of historical relics, buildings and roads. This has been unfortunately true in areas like Anhui, China, where the demolishing of many culturally significant buildings is occurring at a degree akin to that of the Cultural Revolution. Thus, it is clear that there are many disadvantages to this wave of modernization as well.

After analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of bringing the cities of the developing world up to speed with those of the developed world, it is felt modernization causes more good than harm. However, it is hoped that caution is employed in the efforts made to renew the old cities of the world.

**Television has changed the quality of life for the ordinary person. Do you agree or disagree?**

One of the most globally influential inventions of the twentieth century is the television. The efficiency with which television has made the conveying of information is remarkable. It is argued that television has altered the quality of life for the ordinary person. This will be shown by looking at both how televised images alter the speed with which information is exchanged and how television has caused social restructuring.

Firstly, the invention of television has revolutionized the way humanity shares information with one another. For example, during the Second World War, televised visuals were extremely effective in maintaining a heightened understanding of the situation overseas for Americans and Canadians at home. Because of television, these families were able to more clearly comprehend the difficulties their young men and women were facing and it is argued this was an improvement to the living standards their ancestors experienced during World War I.

Secondly, television has fundamentally affected the manner in which people interact with each other. For instance, traditionally a person would congregate with others for entertainment, but with the advent of television this did not need to happen. Thus, television in effect has replaced communal interaction as the main outlet for amusement among most people. Whether this is for better or worse, it is difficult to argue television has not radically changed the lifestyle of ordinary people.

After analyzing how television changed both the way global information is shared and the level to which people interact with each other, it is felt the degree to which television has affected the lives of most human beings is significant. It is believed television has paved the way for new media sources such as the Internet.

**Environmental pollution is a serious issue and it is important to take steps on an individual level to reduce it. But now, since it is becoming an international issue, it is time to take environmental protection to a higher level. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

During much of the twentieth century, little action was taken to encourage lifestyle changes that are environmentally sound. However, over the last twenty years, significant efforts have been made to educate humanity about the threats modern lifestyles pose to the environment. It is agreed that environmental protection efforts need to be brought to the fore of global priorities and taken to a more advanced level of activity. Manners in which this can be done will be analyzed, namely through the global employment of renewable energy and through global educational efforts.

Firstly, renewable energy needs to be developed further to really make a difference in mankind's fight against global pollution. Take solar power, for example. At the moment, solar power is still notably more expensive than petrol, although the gap is closing quickly. With a little extra push, solar power could become a cheaper energy source, thus inciting pollution-causing petroleum industries to shift their focus to the renewable energy sector. It is for this reason that environmental protection should be taken to a higher level.

Secondly, a big part of the fight against pollution is educating people about the measures they can take to help. For instance, advertizing on highly frequented websites like Facebook could do a lot to raise awareness of the lifestyle people need to employ to best help the environment. Because online efforts to promote environmental awareness are low at the moment, it is felt increasing them could encourage people to be receptive to new lifestyle changes. It is for this reason that the idea of beefing up the world's environmental protection efforts is supported.

After analyzing how growth in renewable energy and awareness can help the current global environmental crisis, it is felt the argument for environmental policy improvements has been proven. It is recommended these policies be put into action the world over.

**There is a trend of increasing competitiveness in today's society. In your opinion, is it a good or bad development?**

In recent years, the level of global competition has increased as economies have become more balanced. Among most societies, this is generally considered healthy. Thus, the broad trend of growing competitiveness in today's society is considered a positive phenomenon in the world. This will be shown by analyzing the benefits that are created through competition on both global as well as interpersonal levels.

Firstly, global living standards indirectly grow in tangent with a country's economic competitiveness in the world. For a good example, one needs to look no further than the Koreas. South Korea has made its economy competitive globally through various exports in the technology and automotive sectors. North Korea, on the other hand, creates little and boasts little economic competitiveness globally. The stark difference in living standards between the two countries thus clearly show the link global economic competitiveness has with quality of life. It is for this reason that increasing competition in today's society is thought to be a positive trend.

Even on a smaller scale, the benefits of increasing competition can be seen. Among students in any high school, for example, competition demands results and thus pushes young people to study hard. This pressure leads students to understand their studies much more thoroughly and therefore receive a better overall education. Thus, competition between individuals can be seen as positive.

As has been proven, competition on both a small and large scale can lead to positive results. It is expected that global competition will increase even more, making the speed at which the entire world develops accelerate.

**Rich countries should not employ skilled labour from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?**

Cheap labour is an extremely valuable commodity around the world today. As such, rich countries depend heavily on imported labour to operate large sections of their economies. Although poor countries may need their skilled workers to help them develop as a nation, it is felt that overall greater benefit is seen when their skilled workers are employed by rich countries. This will be proven by analyzing how the employment of foreign labour helps offer developing countries new chances for skill development and economical growth.

Firstly, when developed countries outsource work requiring skilled labour to developing countries, a demand is created that helps fuel the development of higher education in those poorer nations. For example, in the late twentieth century Bangladesh saw a huge influx of software development work from the United States and this corresponded positively with an equal growth in the Bangladeshi tech-related education sector. This example shows how developing countries grow more than just their economy when making their skilled labour available for hire to the world. Thus, developing countries hinder themselves when an openness to foreign employment is not embraced.

In addition to this, the economies of developing countries are given new avenues in which to grow when a working partnership with developed countries is established. Take the relationship between the United States and Mexico as an example. Currently, English-speaking receptionists in Mexico handle telephone support for many different American products. These employment options encourage more and more Mexicans to study English, which in turn creates all sorts of new opportunities for business relationships between the two countries. Thus, the idea that poor countries should close their doors to foreign interest in their skilled labour is not supported.

After analyzing the benefits a developing country sees to its pool of specialized skills and economy, it is clear that poorer countries are in most cases bettered by making their skilled labour available to developed countries. It is hoped that these trends of openness are continued to further help the global economy develop as a whole.

**People in former times used to be more dependent on one another, whereas nowadays they lead a more independent life. Do you agree or disagree?**

As you have heard me say before, I love these 'do you agree or disagree' questions. They are so simple and straightforward, your essay will practically write itself. (If you are new to essay writing, please take a quick review of my YouTube videos regarding structure). Here is my response to the above question:

The world of today is nothing like the world of several hundred years ago. However, it is curious that the degree to which people need one another to survive appears to have changed very little. It is argued that the people of former times are no more dependent on one another than the people of today. This will be shown by analyzing how both groups depend on one another for life necessities as well as protection.

Firstly, both the people of today and the people of former times depend on others to supply them with the very basics they need for life. For example, in early American settlements, the people who took on trades such as welding, masonry and carpentry depended entirely on farmers to provide them with sustenance. This same arrangement exists today, with farmers feeding workers from a variety of other trades. As can be seen, the people of former times are just as dependent on each other as those of modern times.

Secondly, the security that comes from living in a community is still as intact today as it was in former times. For instance, people who lived during the Middle Ages were completely dependent on the kingdom to which they belonged for protection from aggressive outside forces. In much the same way, the borders and immigration control of today's modern countries provide stability and protection to modern people. Thus, the level of dependence people have on one another is no different today than it was in former times.

After analyzing how people depend on one another for basics as well as protection, it has been proven that the historical level of dependence one person has on another has not been altered. This codependency between people is expected to remain an inseparable part of human society into the foreseeable future.

**Children's opinions are influenced by their friends. Is this a positive or a negative development? What can parents do to influence their children's opinions?**

Here is my suggested response:

Of all the influences a typical child is faced with while growing up, that provided by their friends is often very difficult for children to decline. However, this advice often comes from inexperienced sources. Thus, it is believed that the advice of a child's friend is too inexperienced to be considered 'positive'. Alternatively, it is argued healthy parental influence should always come before that of an inexperienced youth. Two methods are suggested in which a parent can maintain an influential role in their child's upbringing, namely by being a stable resource of advice and by being open-minded.

Firstly, by acting as a stable role model in a child's life, a parent can gain the trust and respect of their children and thus become a person their child listens too. For example, it is a known fact that children who have a stable parent figure guiding them tend to listen to their parents more. Thus, it is clear that stability among parenting can lead parents to become more influential in their children's lives. As this kind of long-term stability is rarely present among a child's friends, it is clear parents make the best advisers to their children.

Secondly, parents who are open-minded tend to make it easier for their children to relate to them. Take traditional families, for example. Children living as parts of a traditional family typically have a very difficult time talking to their parents about modern problems for fear their parents would not understand. The closed-mindedness of their parents forces these children to seek the advice they need from others. Thus, among the best ways for parents to remain the most influential source of advice in their child's life is to try to understand the problems today's modern child faces.

After analyzing the parental practices of stability and open-mindedness, it is clear that the influence of a parent should be considered much more positive than that of a child's friends. It is hoped these parenting traits are increasingly seen in the child-raisers of tomorrow.

**Some people say that new advancements in factory farming and the creation of new combinations of fruits and vegetables are beneficial, while others disagree. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Here's a suggested response for you to peruse:

Biotechnical science is a relatively young practice and as such is a topic that tends to incite both wonder and fear. Thus, it is not surprising that opinions surrounding the subject of genetically modified food vary widely in temperament. Many feel that developments in factory farming and the combining of different species of fruits and vegetables are positive for humanity, while others disagree. Both sides of this argument will be analyzed before a reasoned conclusion is found.

Firstly, many feel that scientific intervention can help lead to positive foodstuff discoveries. Take the instance of genetically modified rice in China. In the mid-twentieth century, the scientist Yuan Longping developed a new kind of rice that yielded tremendously larger harvests than traditional rice crops. This discovery was hugely helpful in tackling China's growing rates of starvation resulting from natural disasters and the Cultural Revolution. Thus, it is completely understandable why support for genetically modified food is strong.

However, other people contest that genetically modified food can be extremely damaging. For example, roughly forty years ago, baby infant formula sold to mothers in Africa was found to be part of the reason many infants died. This genetic breast milk substitute caused the babies consuming it to develop dehydrating diarrhea. With such devastating consequences, it is thus understandable why many people do not support the development of genetically modified foods.

After analyzing both sides of this debate, it is felt more good comes from genetically modified foods than bad. It is expected that foods enhanced through technology will make up an increasingly large percentage of most diets around the world.

**Many people want their country to host an international sporting event. Others believe that international sporting events bring more problems than benefits. Discuss both views and include your opinion, supported by examples.**

Let's write a response together. Firstly, please note that this essay question clearly states **'discuss both views'** so our only option here is to write a discussion essay.

International sporting events do a lot for cultural understanding and economical development among the global family. However, the staging of major international sporting spectacles is not entirely positive. Thus, the opinions surrounding whether international sporting events contribute positively to a country or not will be analyzed before a reasoned conclusion is drawn.

It is believed by many that countries who host major international sporting events reap numerous rewards. Take the Beijing Olympics of 2008, for example. These Olympic games greatly helped China to shed its twentieth century status as an incapable, political mess. This positive change to the country's image did a lot to encourage international trade partners, who may have been weary of the country's capabilities otherwise. Thus, it is clear why many people around the world want their country to host an international sporting event.

However, there are other groups who feel internationally held sporting events do more harm than good to a country. For example, the Formula 1 race held annually in various cities around the world is often criticized for its insensitive nature towards the environment. As the racetracks are only used once a year, many feel this wastes the huge stretches of land they sit on, land that would perhaps be better used for residential purposes. Thus, it is understandable why many do not support their country's foray into international sporting.

After looking at both sides of the argument, it is felt that a country's participation in international sporting events is much more positive than negative. It is hoped international sport can help promote cultural understanding.

**Many countries want to move factories and big industrial firms out of towns and into rural areas. Do you think the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?**

Recently, movements have been made the world over/around the earth to relocate factories and industrial companies out of small towns and into more rural areas. It is felt that on the whole this strategy hinders/brings with it more advantages than disadvantages. The subjects of public health and child labour will be analyzed to prove this thesis true.

For one, the health hazards that derive from industrial and residential proximity are unfortunate phenomena that have been exhibited many times along/throughout history. The nuclear meltdown in the Ukrainian city of Chernobyl acts as an extreme example of this. In 1990s Chernobyl, townspeople lived in close proximity to a nuclear plant that provided energy to the region. Because/As a result the plant was located so closely to the townspeople, its meltdown was particularly harmful to the health of many, causing birth defects, growth abnormalities and various forms of cancer. As this example makes clear, the benefits that come from moving industrial production facilities out of towns can be seen/are witnessed clearly.

In addition to health promotion/promoting, moving factories away from residentially sparse/dense areas may help to curb disturbing trends in child labour among developing countries. In many small towns in Anhui, China, for example, high school aged children who grow up near factories are often enticed/dissuaded to leave school and start careers. These same trends are not/commonly seen among Shanghai high school students, however, where residentially dense areas are typically not proximate to industrial plants. Thus, this makes it clear that townspeople living in the vicinity of factories may experience a reduction in their overall level of education. Therefore, the advantages of relocating factories obviously outweigh the disadvantages.

Following this look at how a strategy for industrial displacement would lead to both health benefits and a reduction in child labour, it is felt that this course of action/course of work should be supported. It is hoped worldwide measures are taken to realize this vision.

**Various fertilizers are used nowadays for food production. This is a practice that has more drawbacks than benefits. Do you agree or disagree?**

Since the advent of fertilizers and other crop producing chemicals, farming output has increased exponentially. Yet there are many sound scientific findings that indicate the damage such crop additives cause to human health. Despite this, it is argued that fertilizers, when used in appropriate doses, pose more benefits than drawbacks. This will be shown by analyzing the positive effects pesticides have on crop production and farmland requirements.

For one, fertilizers induce larger harvests, and this can have substantial effects on countries in need of additional sustenance. For example, great famines that have occurred due to natural causes, such as the Irish potato famine, could have been alleviated or even averted were the technology of crop fertilization available to farmers at this time. As history has shown, chemical additives can greatly increase a crop's robustness to disease and poor weather conditions. Thus, it is for this reason that fertilizer's role in crop production, particularly in areas unwelcoming to cultivation, should be supported.

In addition to this, fertilizer can help reduce the amount of land needed to produce foodstuffs. This is especially helpful to population dense countries like Indonesia. Chemical additives help farmers produce more food on smaller plots of land, which encourages the reservation of space and stimulation of economies. As this discussion shows, responsible fertilizer use is a practice that has many positive points.

As this essay has illustrated, the chemical boosting of crop harvests should not be a practice quickly dismissed without first looking at the benefits it brings to people. It is hoped fertilizers continue to be used in safe amounts.

**Some people consider thinking about and planning for the future to be a waste of time. They argue that people should simply live in the moment. Do you agree or disagree? Use at least one personal example in your response.**

The merits behind attempts people make to guess, alter or control the future are often contested. Many counter that people should make efforts to live in the moment. However, I feel that people ought to think regularly about the future and adhere to a plan for their life and career. To illustrate this, the heightened probability of goal achievement and the benefit derision that occurs when one is prepared for the unknown will be analyzed in this essay.

For one, people are much more likely to achieve their professional targets if they make plans. Education's connection to the working world plays as a good example here. If a person plans to become a doctor, they must put into place a comprehensive plan for their education. Were they to just 'live in the moment', their vocational hopes would fall by the wayside and never be realized. As this example shows, thinking about the future is necessary practice that all people with goals should engage in.

In addition to this, regular meditation on the future can help a person position themselves to benefit from upcoming changes to their lifestyle. For instance, before I came to China, I took the time to study the Chinese language. Because I had the foresight to do this, my transition to life in China was much smoother. Thus, as my personal experience makes clear, preparing oneself for the future can help a person reap additional benefits that a 'live in the moment' mentality cannot.

Following this look, it is felt people who commit time to thinking about the future stand to gain in ways other people do not. Thus, it is hoped everyone the world over commits themselves to this lifestyle practice.

***Nowdays, pollution and waste levels are increasing rapidly. How does this effect ordinary people? What steps can be taken to overcome this problem?***

*Pollution levels around the world have been increasing at exponential rates. It is argued that this trend affects the physical health of ordinary people and the future of the natural resources these people need to survive. To combat these issues, the solutions of government intervention and conscientious product buying will be analyzed for viability in this essay.*

*Firstly, to address the physical health problems people experience as a result of high pollution levels, it is argued that governments should work towards educating people about the role they play in the well-being of the natural world. For example, the Emirates used to have the highest rate of garbage production per capita on the globe. But after initiating a compulsory education program in all high schools across the country, this rubbish to person ratio was reduced significantly. Thus, it can be concluded from this example that education plays a very clear role in the fight against worldwide pollution.*

*Further, to encourage the preservation of natural resources, people should take it upon themselves to avoid buying products known to be environmentally harmful. For instance, in the United States it has become trendy for people to buy hybrid cars as opposed to petrol guzzling vehicles, such as Cadillac Escalades. The conscious purchasing decisions these people are making are clearly having results, as the American contribution to global warming is not swelling at nearly the rate it once was. Thus, promoting smart consumer choices is obviously an excellent strategy for combating issues related to pollution.*

*Following this look at the causes and potential solutions to the challenges associated with global contamination, it is felt that with a united effort humanity will be able to overcome this hurdle. It is thus hoped the solutions suggested in this essay are adopted the world over.*