



IELTS Writing Master v.1

IMPROVE YOUR SCORE ON THE TASK 2 ESSAY!

Focus on Structure

by Marcus Cao



Essay structure

- We will focus on the structure of the essay, not grammar and vocabulary.
- The examiner is looking for:
 - Argument: your overall point that you want to make
 - Ideas: that support your Argument
 - Evidence: that support your Ideas



5 Steps

- Understand
- Brainstorm
- Plan
- Write
- Check



Understand

Background
information

Present a written argument or case to an educated non-specialist audience on the following topic:

When people visit other countries they often find the customs of dressing and behavior are different than in their home country. Should visitors adopt the customs of the country they visit or should they follow the customs of their own country?

You should write at least 250 words.

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and support your arguments with examples and relevant

The question.
Notice there are
2 parts to the
question.



Brainstorm

The Argument

The Ideas

Drinking

Revealing clothing

If it doesn't cause hurt to others

If they think it's immoral

Adopt customs or not?

no

yes

If it helps to show respect

The Evidence

If people understand foreigners are different



Plan

We can use the famous 5-paragraph essay format:

Introduction

Body paragraph 1 – Yes – adopt – immoral

Body paragraph 2 – Yes – adopt – respect

Body paragraph 3 – No – don't adopt

Conclusion



Write – Introduction STRATEGY ONE

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO WRITE THE INTRODUCTION:

ONE – Find new words to describe the task:

Tourists and business travelers often visit countries that are different than their own. There may be different customs and practices. Is it best for them to adopt the practices of the country they visit or is it acceptable for them to follow the customs of their own country?

TASK: When people visit other countries they often find the customs of dressing and behavior are different than in their home country. Should visitors adopt the customs of the country they visit or should they follow the customs of their own country?



Write – Introduction STRATEGY TWO

TWO – Use a ‘stock paragraph’ that can be adapted to any task:

Many people wonder / are talking about / debate what should be done about _____. Some people think that it is best _____. However, other people think that _____. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Example:

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.



Write – Introduction STRATEGY THREE

THREE – Copy the words from the Task:

When people visit other countries they often find the customs of dressing and behavior are different than in their home country. Should visitors adopt the customs of the country they visit or should they follow the cu

TASK: When people visit other countries they often find the customs of dressing and behavior are different than in their home country. Should visitors adopt the customs of the country they visit or should they follow the cu

What will the examiner do? He is instructed to count the number of words you have copied and subtract that from the total number of words you have written. If it is still more than 250 then you are OK. Count the words you copied and make sure you have written more.



Write – Body paragraph 1

Let's look at our Plan and write the first paragraph of the body:

Body paragraph 1 – Yes – adopt – immoral

We start with a topic sentence which explains our Idea but does not give any specific details:



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country.



Write – Body paragraph 1

Now let's write the rest of the paragraph. Each sentence must be directly related to the Topic sentence we just wrote. Don't get off topic!



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. **For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.**



Write – Body paragraph 2

Let's look at our Plan and write the second paragraph of the body:

Body paragraph 2 – Yes – adopt – respect

We start with a topic sentence which explains our Idea but does not give any specific details:



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect.



Write – Body paragraph 2

Now let's write the rest of the paragraph. Each sentence must be directly related to the Topic sentence we just wrote. Don't get off topic!



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. It is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people prefer to keep the customs of their own countries. This is not an easy question. In this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. **You can ask your friends who have been to that country what it was like there. It's also good to carry some medicine in case you get sick there.**

No, no, no! We got off topic! This doesn't have anything to do with the Topic sentence!

Let's try again!



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. **Wearing a suit and tie can show respect if that is what the people of the country wear at a meeting or formal event. Men will take their hat off or women will cover their heads to show respect when entering a 'holy' place.**



Write – Body paragraph 3

Let's look at our Plan and write the third paragraph of the body:

Body paragraph 3 – No – don't adopt

We start with a topic sentence which explains our Idea but does not give any specific details:



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. It is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. Wearing a suit and tie can show respect if that is what the people of the country wear at a meeting or formal event. Men will take their hat off or women will cover their heads in some places.

No, no, no! This is too detailed and specific for the Topic sentence.

Let's try again!

If you are American and you forget to take your hat off then it's alright.



Essay sample

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not a an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. Wearing a suit and tie can show respect if that is what the people of the country wear at a meeting or formal event. Men will take their hat off or women will cover their heads to show respect when entering a 'holy' place.

However, people in many countries understand if their visitors don't follow their local customs or practices.



Write – Body paragraph 3

Now let's write the rest of the paragraph. Each sentence must be directly related to the Topic sentence we just wrote. Don't get off topic!

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. Wearing a suit and tie can show respect if that is what the people of the country wear at a meeting or formal event. Men will take their hat off or women will cover their heads to show respect when entering a 'holy' place.

However, people in many countries understand if their visitors don't follow their local customs or practices. **They know their customs may be strange or difficult for foreign visitors to follow. They know foreigners may unknowingly break some of their rules. These people are understanding and forgiving.**



Write – Conclusion

Now let's write the Conclusion. It must only repeat what has already been stated although it can also give your opinion.
Don't get off topic!

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for them to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public like men and women kissing or holding hands. It may also be very bad for women to wear revealing clothing such as a short skirt or see-through blouse. In these countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

Adopting to the local customs can show respect. Wearing a suit and tie can show respect if that is what the people of the country wear at a meeting or formal event. Men will take their hat off or women will cover their heads to show respect when entering a 'holy' place.

However, people in many countries understand if their visitors don't follow their local customs or practices. They know their customs may be strange or difficult for foreign visitors to follow. They know foreigners may unknowingly break some of their rules. These people are understanding and forgiving.

As we can see, there are many aspects to this question. I feel that visitors should follow the customs of the country if it shows respect to the local people or is required by law.

Many people wonder what to do when they visit other countries. Some people think it is best for visitors to adopt the local customs. However, other people think it is best to follow the customs of their own countries. This is not an easy question to answer but in this essay we will look at this issue.

58

Some things that visitors may do are immoral or even illegal according to the customs of the local country. For example, in certain countries it is considered bad to show affection in public and women kissing or hugging. In some countries it may also be illegal to drink alcohol.

72

Adopting to the local customs can show respect for the culture. However, if that is not done properly, it can offend the people of the country. For example, in some countries their hats or women will cover their heads in public places.

52

However, people in many countries understand if their visitors don't follow their local customs. They know their customs and they know foreigners. They know foreigners find it difficult for foreign visitors to understand the rules. These people are understanding and forgive mistakes.

46

As we can see, there are many aspects to consider when visiting a country if it shows respect for the local customs.

35

Let's check our word count

**Total = 263
Perfect**

difficult for foreign
visitors to understand the
rules of their country.

visitors should follow the
customs required by law.



Words

- Always write between 250-265.
- If you write less you can lose a point.
- If you write more it takes more time to write that and the more you write the more mistakes you're likely to make.
- Count your words after every paragraph and make a small note the number in the margins of your paper.



Now it's your turn!

- Read the task and write your essay on a piece of paper. Stay close to this screen as you will get important information while you are working.
- You will be told when 40 minutes are up.
- You will get a 10 minute warning before you have to stop.



Remember the 5 Steps

- Understand
- Brainstorm
- Plan
- Write
- Check

**Start writing when you are ready. Remember the 3 ways
10 minutes left...**

**TIME'S UP! STOP PLEASE! PUT DOWN YOUR
PENCIL!**

Present a written argument or case to an educated non-specialist audience on the following topic:

Many people think that countries have a moral obligation to help each other, while others argue that aid money is misspent by the governments that receive it and therefore international aid should not be given to poor countries. Discuss these two points of view and give your opinion.

You should write at least 250 words.

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.



Let's check your essay

- Between 250-265 words?
- Does it begin with a general Introductory paragraph? The Argument.
- Do each of the Body paragraphs begin with an Topic sentence stating the Idea and supporting the Argument?
- Do the Evidence sentences following the Topic sentence support the Idea of the Topic sentence? Do they stay on topic?
- Does the essay end with a Conclusion that only repeats the previous information without adding any new information?



Congratulations!

- If you have done all of those things well, plus if your grammar and vocabulary are reasonably good, you will receive a good score!



MarcusCao@yahoo.com.hk