

Task Title: Write an essay to express an opinion about a topic of interest

# OALCF Cover Sheet – Practitioner Copy



**Learner Name:**

**Date Started (m/d/yyyy):**

**Date Completed (m/d/yyyy):**

**Successful Completion:**  Yes No

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Goal Path:** | Employment | Apprenticeship |
| Secondary School | Post Secondary | Independence |

**Task Description:**

The Learner will express an opinion in writing and organize information in well developed paragraphs.

**Competency:** A: Find and Use Information

B: Communicate Ideas and Information

D: Using Digital Technology (if essay is word processed)

**Task Groups:** A1: Read continuous text

A3: Extract info from films, broadcasts and presentations

B2: Write texts to explain and describe information   
and ideas

D: N/A

**Level Indicators:**

* A1.3: Read longer texts to connect, evaluate and integrate ideas and information
* A3: (Not rated for complexity)
* B2.3: Write longer texts to present information, ideas and opinions
* D3: Experiment and problem-solve to perform multi-step digital tasks

**Performance Descriptors:** See chart on last page

**Materials Required:**

* Pen/Pencil/Paper
* Computer with word processing software (if applicable) or copy of digitized task
* Skill-building activities – Grammar, punctuation, sentence, paragraph and essay structure; Writing sentences and paragraphs on topics; Simple research skills.

# Learner Information

Write an essay of about 6 paragraphs expressing your opinion about a topic that interests you.

A learner on the educational goal paths will need to be able to write essays expressing their own opinions.

# Work Sheet

**Task 1:** Write down some topics that interest you. This is sometimes called “brain-storming”. These could be news-related (local politics, bylaws, current events) or subjects that you find interesting. The most important thing is that it is something that you have an opinion about.

**Task 2:** Pick a topic that you feel comfortable researching and writing your opinion about.

**Task 3:** Research your topic. You can use books from the library, the newspaper, videos, or an internet search. Make sure you keep track of where you are getting information.

**Task 4:** Write a rough draft of an essay that expresses your opinion about the topic you have chosen.

**Task 5:** Write a final draft of your essay. Be sure that your essay:

* Includes an introductory paragraph that outlines the main idea and states your opinion about the topic
* Gives examples about your topic
* Backs up your opinion with as much information as possible while still being to the point
* Ensures all paragraphs relate to the main idea
* Summarizes your opinion in the last paragraph
* Has been checked in the final draft for spelling and punctuation

**Task 6:** If you are using the computer to type your essay, or are typing it into the space provided on the digitized task:

* Give a title to your essay
* Save your essay in an appropriate file, for example, in “My Documents” or on a USB drive (if typing it into a computer program)
* Print out your essay and hand it in to your instructor (if typing it into a computer program)

Final Draft of Your Essay:

# Performance Descriptors 1

| Levels | Performance Descriptors | Needs Work | Completes task with support from practitioner | Completes task independently |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A1.3 | Integrates several pieces of information from texts |  |  |  |
|  | Manages unfamiliar elements (e.g. vocabulary, context, topic) to complete tasks |  |  |  |
|  | Identifies the purpose and relevance of texts |  |  |  |
|  | Skims to get the gist of longer texts |  |  |  |
|  | Infers meaning which is not explicit in texts |  |  |  |
|  | Begins to recognize bias and points of view in texts |  |  |  |
|  | Obtains information from detailed reading |  |  |  |
| A3. | Extracts information from films, broadcasts and presentations |  |  |  |
| B2.3 | Writes texts to present information, summarize, express opinions, present arguments, convey ideas or persuade |  |  |  |
|  | Manages unfamiliar elements (e.g. vocabulary, context, topic) to complete tasks |  |  |  |
|  | Selects and uses vocabulary tone and structure appropriate to the task |  |  |  |
|  | Organizes and sequences writing to communicate effectively |  |  |  |
|  | Uses a variety of vocabulary, structures and approaches to convey main ideas with supporting details |  |  |  |
| D.3 | Experiments and problem-solves to achieve the desired results |  |  |  |
|  | Manages unfamiliar elements (e.g. vocabulary, context, topic) to complete tasks |  |  |  |
|  | Makes inferences to interpret icons and text |  |  |  |
|  | Identifies sources, evaluates and integrates information |  |  |  |
|  | Performs advanced searches (e.g. refines search terms, uses advanced search features, cross-refers between websites) |  |  |  |

# Performance Descriptors 2

This task: Was successfully completed Needs to be tried again

Learner Comments:

Instructor (print):

