

Parents can also work together with teachers to provide basic needs of the school like water, good blocks of classroom and not only that, they should contribute their knowledge and skills to the school, by being supportive and getting actively involved in the school and extra-curricular activities of the students.

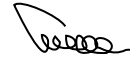
One of the major way in which parents can work together with teachers is through the Parents Teachers Association (P.T.A). Through P.T.A., Parents can give meaningful, moral, financial support to the school. They can help to raise needed funds, and buy computers, school uniforms and other classroom needs for them. They can organize social events to promote learning, for example award giving ceremonies to celebrate academic and athletic excellence.

Furthermore, parents can also help choose the correct academic curriculum and teachers for their wards. It can be said that the impact of parental involvement in school has long lasting positive effects.

I hope these suggestions would be taken in to due consideration.

Thanks.

Yours faithfully,



Zainab Adah

Question 4

Write a letter to the Minister of Health and Environment in your country discussing the causes of the menace of street begging and suggesting solutions to the problem.

(WASSCE 2005)

*Kamsek School,
Akinyemi Avenue,
Alagbado,
Lagos.
22nd November, 2005.*

*The Minister,
Ministry of Health and Environment,
Abuja,
Nigeria.*

Dear Sir,

CAUSES OF THE MENACE OF STREET BEGGING

Through your good offices, I wish to draw your attention to the causes of street begging in this country Nigeria. Street begging has become a regular nuisance. It is a blot on the fair name of our country. Almost at every point you are greeted by a beggar. The population of beggars on our streets is growing exponentially, they gather around in throng, in buses and near bus stands and even near places of worship. Our natural prestige suffers a good deal when beggars greet foreigners at every turn of the wad.

The menace of street begging is a potential threat to our citizens. I would wish you pay attention to the following causes of this social vice.

In our country alms giving is believed to be one pillar of Christianity, Islam and other religions. People give alms to exercise their Christian or Islamic beliefs. As a result, we find able bodied men who can do menial jobs, throng the streets begging for alms. They find it easier to live on other people's hard earned money. This easy gotten money is spent ruthlessly and diabolically. The most painful aspect of it is that, these beggars, even encourage and teach their children to beg. Thus, this so called charity leads to so many vices, like laziness, illiteracy and so on.

Street begging, also have its political undertone. Many leading and vocal malams advocate the door-to-door begging for children in order to remain faithful to their religion. They encourage street begging for selfish and political ambitions.

This social evil must be put to a stop. Healthy beggars should be made to work. The disabled or the physically challenged ones however, should be maintained at state expense. They should be kept in some suitable houses outside the city where they should be fed at government expenses. Not only should begging be declared illegal by an act of parliament. The public should also be educated against it. Those who give alms to the strong and abled men and children should be punished.

In conclusion, the government should strengthen its social welfare programmes in such a way that it will be meaningful. The physically challenged would be incorporated meaningfully into the scheme. I hope there will be some meaningful changes through this suggestions.

Thanks for your patience.

Yours faithfully,

Adewale Babafemi

Question 5

Write a letter to the Minister of Education in your country on the poor state of schools in your area and its effects on the performance of student

(WASSCE 2006)

Answer

*Christ High School,
P. O. Box 1008,
Uromi,
Edo State.
10th June, 2006.*

*The Minister,
Ministry of Education,
Wuse, Abuja.*

Dear Sir,

POOR STATE OF SCHOOLS IN UROMI

The performance of students in both internal and external examination is a source of concern to parents, teachers and all stakeholders in the education sector. It has raised so many eye brows and so many questions have been asked as to why this should be so.

Sir, I am of the opinion that the poor state of most schools in our locality, is the major cause of poor academic performance of students. I am distraught to the challenges facing schools in this area especially the public ones. There has been a long neglect and poor funding of some schools in this area.

The physical structures of some, if not almost all of the schools in this area are dilapidated. There are no toilet facilities, no electricity and other needed infrastructures. The roofs are dilapidated. With such a situation both students and pupils will hardly concentrate in classroom activities. The result would be poor academic performance.

If you take an inspection of the outside building the result will be devastating. The so-called science laboratories have been reduced to store rooms, with no equipment. In fact, nothing like science practicals take place in most of these schools. This surely will have a bad effect on the performance of science students. Again, the laboratories have outdated books. Some schools cannot even boast of one. This in essence means, students will not kept abreast with what is happening in this jet age.

Furthermore, teachers, who a times are unqualified, do not use instructional materials to drive home their points. It is a well known fact that instructional materials are vital in teaching and learning. The lack of it creates poor academic performance for students. Most classrooms are jammed-packed with students. Sometimes the rapport between teachers and students is zero.

The task of rebuilding schools to provide quality education is paramount in this area. I hope that this letter will convince you to effect changes and provide the needed quality and for improvement in students performance.

Thanks for your patience.

Yours faithfully,


Ebuka Osai

Question 6

There has been a public outcry against the escalating prices of foodstuffs in your area. Write a letter to your representative in the house of Assembly, stating the causes of the increase and suggesting ways of dealing with the problem. **(WASSCE 2007)**

Answer

*The Honourable,
Ade Constituency I,
The House of Assembly,
Abeokuta.*

*6, Prince Adeshina Street,
Shomerfun Close,
Adiyan,
Ogun State.
21st June, 2007*

Dear Sir,

ESCALATING PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS

I write to bring to your notice the public outcry against the escalating prices of foodstuff in Ade area of this state. The residents of this area have been complaining bitterly in the recent time about the increase in the prices of foodstuffs.

The astronomical rise in the prices of foodstuff has been occasioned by so many factors.

Firstly, the incessant fuel scarcity which has hindered mobility is alarming. Vehicles that convey agricultural produce are hampered by this ugly trend as a result, the prices of food skyrocket everyday.

Secondly, this development is caused by mass rural-urban drift. Many young farmers who are supposed to be in the village and farm have abandoned farming in search of green pastures in the cities.

Consequently, there is decrease in the supply of food stuff. This is further worsened by the erratic weather pattern in our country.

Another reason for the tremendous increase in the prices of foodstuffs in this area is that the few farmers who are left in the villages to farm, do so for their own private needs. This is further aggravated with the use of old and obsolete farm implements.

Finally, there is need at the moment to arrest the situation. The drift of young men and women into the cities could be reduced by making farming more attractive. Modern equipments should be provided to farmers. Government needs to set up a national agency for small-scale agriculture development. Also large-scale and mechanized farming should be taken up by the state government.

In conclusion, I shall be grateful if you use your good offices to attend promptly to this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Jide

Jide Kolawole

Question 7

Write a letter to the chairman of the election petition Tribunal insisting on cancellation of the results of the recent conducted local Government Chairmanship election in your area and why you are of the view. **(NECO 2007)**

Answer

*Lady of Fatima Secondary School,
P.O.Box 139,
Umuahia,
Abia State.
13th March, 2007.*

*The Chairman
Election Petition Tribunal,
Ahiazu-Local Government Area.*

Dear Sir,

CANCELLATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

After a close review of events during the just concluded local government chairmanship election, I hereby forward my dissatisfaction with its conduct and result. I request that the tribunal should nullify the result of the acclaimed winner and arrange for a re-run of that election.

Again, the election was marred with irregularities and non-compliance with the electoral act. There were cases of ballot box snatching, ballot box stuffing and massive rigging in some wards of the local government.

Furthermore, there are instances of over voting in 14 polling units. There was no proper accreditation of voters too. In fact, this election has been adjudged the worst election this local government ever had.

Finally, it is also worthwhile to note that this area has not known peace since the release of the result of the just concluded election. There has been extra judicial killing, the inhabitants of the city had fled for safety. Lives and properties are not safe.

In conclusion, I want to appeal that the result should be cancelled and a re-run election be conducted so that justice would prevail and peace restored.

Yours faithfully,



Sylva Ndubuisi

Question 8

Some vehicles fitted with modern communication gadgets were recently donated by a Non-Governmental Organisation to the security outfit in your community. As the community secretary “Write an appreciation letter that would be read during the official presentation ceremony of the vehicles”
(NECO 2010)

Answer

*Baiyeku Autonomous Community,
Ifo Local Government Area,
Ogun State,
18th November, 2010.*

*The Chief Officer,
The Nigerian Internet Group,
Apapa,
Lagos.
Dear Sir,*

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the people of Baiyeku Community in Ifo Local Government Area. I sincerely wish to say a big thank you for the donation of modern communication gadgets to our security outfit. We received this great parcel three days ago and it has held us dumbfounded since then.

As you know our community is in dire need of these gadgets to enhance free exchange of information within and outside the community. With government funding lacking, we rely on donations like yours to keep going. The donation is a major step towards the realization of our goal to remove all constraints and obstacles in communication.

We really appreciate your support regarding the changes we are making in our community your donation will go a long way to foster development in the community, which would have been tampered without generous people like you. The gadgets will be used as intended and we call on you to always visit us to see our rate of progress.

Again, we are saying thank you for taking time out to grace this occasion. We sincerely appreciate all the donations made to our community. We look forward to sharing updates on the community development with you using the gadgets. In the meantime, feel free to call any time, you will be highly welcomed.

Thank You.

Yours faithfully,



Biodun Badmus

Question 9

**“Write a letter to the newly appointed Chairman of your Local Government Area highlighting some of the needs of the people.
(WASSCE 2008)”**

Answer

*Vivian Fowler Memorial College,
P.O.Box 8916,
Surulere,
Lagos.
22nd September, 2008.*

*The Chairman,
Agege Local Government Area,
P.O.Box 696,
Lagos.*

Dear Sir,

NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE IN AGEGE

Congratulations on your recent victory as the newly elected Local Government Chairman of Agege. May I crave your indulgence to speak briefly about the basic needs of the people. As you know, the Local Government is the third tier of government in Nigeria and it is nearest to the people. I believe your tenure would not be like your predecessors who used the community to win elections only to abandon them thereafter.

To start with, I would like to identify the needs of the community for inclusion in L.G. budget. There is an urgent need to rehabilitate the existing roads built by previous government and other infrastructural development. More schools, markets and hospitals should be built. The people are living in abject poverty, there is need for community governance so as to promote sense of belonging. The way the people have been so neglected is not the best.

Furthermore, identify capital projects and complete them. There is also the need to revitalise sports activities to keep the youths busy.

Lastly, the inadequate water supply has contributed to the menace on the community and this often hampers business activities. There should be quick intervention in the water supply problem at the community. The people, therefore, call on you to put in place strategies to fast-track the provision of these basic amenities, which in the long run would boost business activities and improve the standard of living.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Ramon Akinfemi

Question 10

The chairman of your Local Government Area has invited views from the general public on how to bring about improvement in the community. Write a letter to him as the President of the Local Welfare Society expressing, at least, three views **(WASSCE 2009)**

Answer

*P. O. Box 8916,
Agodi Post Office,
Ibadan.
16th May, 2009.*

*The Chairman,
Ahiazu Local Government Area,
Umuofia,
Imo State.*

Dear Sir,

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY

I write to express my views on how to bring about improvement in Ahiazu community. How well a community performs economically, politically and socially depends in many ways on the creativity boldness and vision of its administrator. Nigeria will develop only when the rural communities are developed.

I would humbly suggest that, the monthly allocations of Federal government to local governments should be well utilized for the provision of community hospitals, road construction, rural electrification, water projects etc, rather than the people financing these varied development projects.

Again, those at the helm of affairs should develop and implement good policies by collecting social and economic data. For example, demographic data help to identify the burning power and market size of a community and provide investors with information about the economic wealth of an area. You should embark on business with entrepreneurs and investors and foster growth to development.

Most importantly Sir, property owners should be well educated on how to build and maintain access roads to their properties. It is no longer news that there are no access roads to many of the million dollar residential and commercial buildings in the Local Government Area. They should establish building standards to avoid the incessant collapse of building. This must be properly enforced.

Effective methods should be devised to raise funds (e.g. through property tax, business and personal tax etc) and these funds should be used for community development.

Lastly, empower the citizens by creating employment and improving their standard of living and continuing investment in and maintenance of social infrastructures which is the bedrock for economic growth and community development.

Thank you for your anticipated favorable response.

Yours faithfully,


Emmanuella Amadi

Question 11

The quality of food prepared for students in your school has become very poor. Write a letter to the principal complaining about this and explaining ways in which this situation can be remedied.
(WASSCE 2013)

Answer

*Federal Science College,
P.M.B. 2000,
Ibarapa,
Oyo State.
27th June, 2013.*

*The Principal,
Federal Science College,
Ibarapa,
Oyo State.
Dear Sir,*

COMPLAINT ABOUT POOR FOOD

I write this letter to bring to your attention the poor state of food served to us students in the past few weeks in the school.

There are five main dishes that are very poorly prepared. They are rice, yam, beans, plantain and vegetable stew.

Rice is prepared with too much water which renders it too soft and tasteless. Yam on the other hand is cooked without completely peeling off the back so that when we eat, we eat unpeeled yam. Many students pay visit to the toilet after eating such food.

Beans does not give us any joy at eating either because it is cooked hard and almost saltless. I think the school cooks do not exercise the patience required by beans to cook it soft. We end up with constipation when we eat it. Plantain is equally poorly prepared. It turns out to be either meshy or with hard inside and soft outside. Indeed, it is a sorry story for all these foods.

Vegetable stew is the worse hit. The vegetable itself is too little to be meaningful in the stew. In fact, you could count the number of vegetable leaves in your plate.

The outcome of all these is that we students are not satisfied with our current state of feeding. Most students barely touch their meals. This is the reason why teachers observe sleeping in class and hardly paying attention even when not sleeping. From the little knowledge I have of nutritional value, we stand to gain a lot from these various foods in terms of the function of the various meals. One of their function is to help the brain to develop properly. In other words, we stand to lose much in terms of child development if we do not take the right type of food in its proper proportion.

I am appealing to you sir, through this letter to please look into what is happening in your kitchen. I write because I have faith in your office to look into this matter and remedy the situation promptly. Thank you for your kindness.

Yours faithfully,


Meridan Shelly

Question 12

Write a letter to the Minister of Education in your country discussing, at least, three ways by which the quality of education could be improved. (450 words) (WASSCE 2014)

*Federal Unity College,
Igbesa,
Oyo State.
27th March, 2015.*

*The Honourable Minister,
Federal Ministry of Education,
Abuja.*

Dear Sir,

HOW TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

I write this letter to you to express my concern about the quality of education in this beloved country, Nigeria.

The WAEC results of past few years in the country have raised not just a few eyebrows, it has actually caused sparks and heated arguments in several quarters. It has called for debates in several for a with the favourite topic “Dwindling standard in Education: Who is to blame - Teacher or Student”

The truth is education in Nigeria has been watered down for the following reasons. Lack of commitment by the relevant authorities to education, Poor remuneration and broke training of teachers and although not the last of it, there is also absence of clearly defined goals for the economy and growth for the nation.

To solve these problems the relevant authority that is the Federal government under whose statutory role it lies to fund education should show more sense of commitment. Education should be given priority. It is understood that government cannot shoulder all of the responsibilities, but what can be done should be seen clearly to be done. Money voted to security is usually twice as high as that voted to education whereas, when there is proper education with the expected standard the nation and its nationals would be so well secured there there would be no need for insecurity. “My people perish for lack of knowledge” this summarises all the problems we have now. In addition, money voted should be properly dispensed and monitored to ensure it gets to the right quarters and that it is judiciously spent.

The role of government does not end in voting money to education, it must ensure that the parent ministry, the Ministry of Education makes teachers a priority in their hierarchy of programme. Both the training and retraining of teachers and their comfort need be looked into if we are to have any meaningful improvement in that sector. It is obvious even to the blind that most teachers have become obsolete in their knowledge mainly because the peanut they

are paid as salaries cannot sustain them and their family let alone afford them left over to train themselves and the parent ministry has clearly ignored this aspect of learning. Teachers therefore at all levels are dolling out knowledge that is best for the trash bin! Who can blame them? You cannot give out what you do not have.

When these two areas have been taken care of, my least point is that government of the day must have a clear goal of the need of the nation which in turn will place emphasis on the study specialties of learners. As it is now, learners have no grand interest in learning anymore as knowledge gathered from such area lead to a cul-de-sac. The oil and gas players are the winners and they take it all. Learners just study without a special need to improve a special area in the country. They are not challenged to bring out their creative potentials anymore - so, anything goes. I can assure you that when the government is focused, there will emerged special teachers that can lead learners out of the poverty of knowledge we find ourselves today in this country. There are new ideas and knowledge all over the place for those who have the talent to grab and use for the good of all but the enabling environment must first be created by relevant authorities to make this happen.

These are the major problems confronting education in Nigeria today. Sir, I believe you are more than capable of confronting and resolving the situation.

Thank you my honourable minister.

Yours faithfully,

Ilasa Koko

Exercises

There has been a quarrel between your parents as a result of which everything has turned upside down in the family. In a letter to an adult family friend, explain what happened and invite him/her to mediate so as to reconcile your parents and restore harmony in your home.

Write a letter to your friend in another school telling him about the preparations your school is making towards her forthcoming silver jubilee celebration.

Your elderly sister has written to inform you that she is set to elope with a man she intends to marry but whom your parents do not approve of. Write a reply to her letter registering your stance against her decision.

Write a letter to the editor of one of your national newspaper discussing the rise in the level of examination malpractices in your country and suggesting what can be done about the problem

Hooliganism, with its attendant loss of lives and property is fast creeping into the game of football in your country. Write a letter to your regional director of sports looking at the causes of this nasty development and suggesting measures to combat it.

Write to your pen friend overseas describing an important national event that took place in your country last year

In a letter to a friend of yours give an account of an excursion you made with your classmates. Describe what you saw and what you gained from the trip.

CHAPTER TWO

ESSAY TYPES

The Narrative Essay	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Argumentative Essay	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Descriptive Essay	..	..	..	..	..	..
Expository Essay	..	..	..	..	..	..
Article Writing	..	..	..	..	..	..
Report Writing	..	..	..	..	..	..
Minutes of a Meeting	..	..	..	..	..	..
Speech Writing	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Programme Essay	..	..	..	..	..	..
Giving Direction	..	..	..	..	..	..

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

A narrative is defined as a story which centres on one event or a series of closely connected events. The main purpose of the narrative writer is to present or tell in detail a story that has one main point.

Simply put, a narrative essay is story-telling. Essentially, all narrative writing is concerned with *What happened*, and in telling what happened, story tellers concerned themselves with: **Setting, Characterisation, situation/conflict, action, climax and outcome**. These are the essential elements in narrative writing.

Setting:

Every story happens somewhere at some time. The time and place or the physical background of a story is its setting.

Characters

Characters are people who feature in a story. The leading character - the hero or the heroine - is also known as the **protagonist**. Usually there is an **antagonist** ... a character who stands against the wishes or the plans of the hero or the heroine.

The Situation or Conflict

Something has to happen in a story and this cannot be unless the leading character has a problem or finds himself in a situation or conflict. This situation/ conflict needs resolving.

Action:

In resolving the problem or conflict, action comes in. The story then becomes a sequence of events following each other. This is called **plot**.

Climax

The action arising out of the situation continues until it reaches the point of highest interest, tension or excitement. This high point is known as **climax**.

Outcome:

After the climax has been reached, the situation/conflict is resolved. The outcome of the story is called **resolution**. It winds up the plot which consists of the situation, action, climax and outcome.

These are the essential elements in anything that tells what happened. The story may be simple or complicated, light or serious, sad or comic. Yet the elements of the narrative are always present. **Remember to plan your story before you write it, basing your plan on the elements of narrative writing.**

A GUIDE TO WRITING GOOD NARRATIVES**Introduction**

Make your introduction or opening of the essay catchy by launching directly into the story. Normally this will arouse the interest of your reader and encourage him to read the story. In contrast, a long and vague introduction will bore the reader and turn him off. Use the introduction to give background information and the conclusion to discuss the significance or personal impressions of the story. The bulk of the essay must however, be an account of exactly what happened.

Source of Material

If the scope of the question allows it, choose and write on an event which has an element of conflict. Experience has shown that conflict is the powerful tool for stories. You can develop in your narrative the following areas of conflict:

- Conflict of argument, decency, choices, struggle for victory, success or superiority between people.
- Conflict within an individual resulting in his being torn between doing one of two or more things.
- Conflict between an individual and forces of nature or the environment which may be beyond his control
- Conflict between an individual and his society emanating from his refusal to conform or do what everyone else does.

Sustain Interest

Having succeeded in arousing the interest of your reader through the use of an appropriate opening, do sustain it. This urges him on to read to the very last word. Here surprises, strange happenings and suspense will help but they should be natural and relevant to the atmosphere of the story. In short arouse curiosity and develop it to a logical end.

Be Realistic

Realistic or true - to - life essays are more convincing and appealing than those depicting myth and fantasy. Where necessary mention names or create character, real life situations, places or setting in the narrative.

Time Sequence

A story is a series of events and these should be arranged in their order of occurrence to the very last event or incident. This is termed **chronological** order and by it, you derive coherence in the narrative. If your story spans a whole day you should begin from the morning and end up with the evening.

Choice of Words

Your narrative comes to life if you choose words that add colour and vigour to meaning. In addition, you should present detail in your narrative. In a nutshell, to arrive at a good narration, choose words which paint pictures in the reader's mind.

Tense

There is a predominant use of the past tense in narrative essays primarily because such essays deal with issues or events that have already occurred.

Concluding the Narrative Essay

In the narrative essay, the loose ends of the story are tied up in a logical close. Do not abandon your reader through an abrupt or sudden end of the narrative. Your story should take off with a good opening, rise gradually to a climax and then descend towards a logical close in the conclusion.

Examples Of Narrative Essay Topics Are

- Write a story for publication in your school magazine, with the ending: 'So you see, it doesn't pay to be a liar'.
- You were the prefect on duty when a riot broke out in your school. Tell your friends at home what happened during the riot and how the situation was brought under control.
- Write a story beginning with "At first I thought it was a joke..."

A Careful Observation Reveals A Pattern Which Narrative Essay Topics Follow.

You may be given an opening or a closing sentence. Usually a popular saying or an often quoted proverb upon which to construct your narrative.

Some candidates have been able to rely on their imagination and creativity to write brilliant narrative essays. Unfortunately however, others write essays in which the content and the given statement or proverb move in opposite directions. Such essays are deviations and the penalty is heavy. So, if you are given an introductory or a conclusive sentence, proverb or saying, do ensure that your essay matches with it. Where this is absent, your essay becomes analogous to attaching the head of a dog to the body of a cat, you should present detail in your narrative. In a nutshell, to arrive at a good narration, choose words which paint pictures in the reader's mind.

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS**Question 1:**

Narrate a story ending with the saying: *You can’t eat your cake and have it.*

(WASSCE 2002)

Answer**One Bitten, Twice shy**

Jumai my cousin, is a lady endowed with beautiful appearance, tall and slim and has a fair complexion. Her hair is long and wooly. These are the features that make her look like a model from one of the beauty magazines. She often likes to show off, even though she is more beautiful than she is brilliant. Because we are quite close, she tells me a lot about herself.

Last year when I visited her, she told me what she had experienced, She said that she had met a young man who told her he loved her and wanted to marry her. She said the man drove a Toyota car and is very handsome. From the way she spoke, I realised she had fallen deeply in love. I asked her “will you marry him? she answered “Yes of course”.

I was not surprised at this answer but I was worried. So I tried to warn her to be careful with the man. A few days later, Jumai went to meet him in their usual love nest. He gave her attractive presents and she was happy. He told her how much he loved her and couldn't wait to wed her. These visits continued for some time until one day the tragedy struck.

Jumai went off as usual to meet her heart throb and to her greatest chagrin, she met another lady in her boyfriend's room naked.

For some days, Jumai did not tell me about it, she just kept to herself. I noticed she had grown moody and sad. I asked her about her boyfriend and she looked even sadder than before. After some time she spoke up. I was surprised at her story because I knew the guy really loved her. What has really gone wrong? I knew the guy will come begging.

After a week, the guy surfaced as usual with lots of presents, (gold wrist watch, expensive - looking gold necklace and a beautiful hand bag) and full of apologies. Jumai's parents had made up their minds that she would not marry this guy because he had jilted her. They made it clear to him that he could not have the best of both worlds. An individual who was engaged to marry someone but is still dating others romantically is unheard of so you can't eat your cake and have it.

Question 2

Write a story which ends with the words: "*Had I known, I wouldn't have believed him.*"

(WASSCE 2003)

Answer

All that Glitters Is not Gold

There was once a student who had an affair with a married man. She met this man some five years ago and started the relationship three years later.

The student's name was Miriam; she was a final year student in one of the universities in the country. This man, was quite advanced in age, and had all it takes to be called a rich man, was separated from his wife. He told her that it was completely over between himself and his wife. The relationship continued and Miriam got all she demanded from this man. She was head over heels in love and pulled out of the university because she was promised marriage and a successful business life.

To prove his love and loyalty to Miriam, he rented a three bedroom apartment and furnished it elaborately. She was forbidden not to see or entertain any male visitor. Miriam failed to realise that to choose a devil for a husband was to be sentenced to life-long anguish; the relationship will colour every aspect of one's life endeavours, from education and social life to business. And to be yoked with an incurable fraudster and liar as a husband may bring one down for life.

After three years of the relationship, there was no serious proposal. He kept promising that marriage will soon take place. She didn't know he was making plans of going back to his wife. Eventually, he went back to her and dumped Miriam like a hot potato. This action dawned on her when she received a letter from him stating how he regretted every moment with her, and how he had never stopped loving his wife. He said, he couldn't believe how much he had hurt his wife. He is now fighting to win back her love and trust. After reading the letter Miriam sank into her chair and tried to sleep. In vain, she closed her eyes to woo the goddess of sleep. She found her mind continually going on adventures into her past, until finally, a little before midnight, She found herself hand-in-hand with a strange man. He was leading her to a beautiful garden with a quietly flowing stream in the valley. Somehow they did not speak to each other; there, the man suddenly pushed her into the water. she woke up and screamed "Had I known, I wouldn't have believed him".

Question 3

Write a story ending with: *"He reaped what he sowed"*. The story should be suitable for publication in your school magazine. **(WASSCE 2004)**

The Honest Employee

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. "It is time for me to step down and choose the next Chief Executive Officer. I have decided to choose one of you. They were all shocked but he continued "I am going to give each of you a SEED today. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown. I will then assess the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO.

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he like others received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday he would water it and watch to see if it has grown. After about three weeks some of the executive began to talk about the seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by, still nothing. Others were talking about their plants. He felt like a failure. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach. It was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life; but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room.

When Jim arrived he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed.

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "what great plants, tree and flowers you have grown" said the CEO.

Today one of you would be appointed the new CEO. All of a sudden the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with empty pot. He ordered his financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified and thought he would be fired immediately when Jim got to the front the CEO asked him what happened. Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim and announced to the young executives "Behold your next CEO!!! His name is Jim. Jim couldn't believe it because he couldn't grow his seed.

The CEO explained that, a year ago, he gave boiled seed to each of them to water and fertilized and grow. The seeds were dead. It was not possible for them to grow. All of you except Jim have brought trees and flower and plants. It means you substituted the dead seeds. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring a pot with the seed in it. Therefore he is the one who will be the new Chief executives. He has reaped what he sowed. If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

Question 4

Write a story ending with the words: "Indeed, it was a blessing in disguise".

(WASSCE 2005)

Answer

A TRIP TO REMEMBER

John was up on a ladder trying to get at a cock on the roof, when he suddenly felt the ladder he was standing on gave way under his feet. The next moment, he fell heavily on the ground below.

He could not move his left leg. His brother helped him up. There was great pain in his left ankle. Must have twisted it badly when he fell. His mother came and applied a cold compress to the painful part. It was already beginning to swell. His mother said “now you can’t go to Ghana”.

John’s heart sank. He was supposed to go on his first trip to Ghana. His Uncle and family there had invited him over to spend the holiday with them. His bus was due the next morning. In this condition, he could not possibly go. He telephoned his uncle and told him about his twisted ankle and that he could not make it to Ghana. John felt really disappointed for he had looked forward to the trip for some time now.

For the rest of the day, John just sat and watched his brothers and sisters play. He could hardly move without the aid of a clutch. Two days after the accident, John got up from bed feeling a bit depressed. His ankle still hurts and he could not do anything except sit around and read the papers.

One day John’s eyes wandered to the newspaper on the table in front of him. He picked it up and started to read the headlines.

*“**BUS OVERTURNS, 10 DEAD, MORE INJURED**” was screaming across the front page. He began to read the story of the bus accident. As he read he felt goose pimples rising on his skin. The more he read the more intense the feeling became. My god!! He exclaimed, the bus described in the papers was the one he had a ticket for. If he had been in the bus he could have been killed. He was so glad that he was not in the bus after all. It was actually a blessing in disguise. He muttered a silent prayer of thanks. Indeed it was a blessing in disguise.*

Question 5

Write a story that illustrate the saying that “It really pays to be patient”. **(WASSCE 2006)**

Answer

It pays to be Patient

I have been dating a really wonderful man for three years now, we spend our weekends together, go shopping together and do most things together, Infact, I am crazy about him and I know he feels the same too, but we are yet to say “I love you” to each other. I avoid saying those three words to him in order not to be too forward. What I am getting through his actions and emotions is that he truly loves me, I don’t want to push him to formally say it.

He has been involved in several dysfunctional relationship, married once, and was in a long-term relationship with someone else. He uses this to keep me at arm’s length. Emotionally, it is becoming increasingly frustrating for me. What compounds the problem is that he is still active on dating website.

I tried to talk to him about it but decided not to, I believed deep down in me that to build a solid foundation for long lasting relationship, one has to be patient. His going to dating website, looking for friends is very annoying to me, but I kept my cool.

The million dollar question here is; “How long should I patiently wait for him to stop pulling back at me? should I continue sticking around: six months, one year, two years have passed. The guy don’t want to get committed.

I wanted to pull out but I decided to hang on despite all odds. I knew he was going through tough times emotionally and financially. Two years after, he overcame all the emotional and financial difficulties and vehemently told me he loved me and was ready to tie the nuptial knot.

We are now husband and wife with beautiful kids. Surprisingly one night on our matrimonial bed he told me “It really pays to be patient”

Question 6

Write a story that illustrate the wisdom of saying. “A rolling stone gathers no moss”.

(WASSCE 2007)

Answer

A Rolling Stone Gather no Moss

My life story is a typical example of the saying “a rolling stone gathers no moss”. I graduated from the university some years back. I spent almost a year with my parents doing nothing. It was a regular trip, to and fro one place to another. It wasn’t something I particularly liked, but what do I do?

Later on, a friend introduced me to a job opportunity in Lagos and after a quick interview, I was offered the job. I worked with the company for three months after which for one reason or another I quit the job. I decided to live in Lagos and look for something new.

I could not count how many companies I had worked for since I graduated until a few days ago. While updating my resume to include the latest appointment, I realised that I had been employed at eleven different firms through out my ten years of work. That does not include a few short stunts at companies owned by friends and relatives.

This hopping around wasn’t a good thing. The constant job changes had led to difficulties. I lack deep knowledge of one particular field. I was like the proverbial rolling stone that gathers no moss. I gathered no moss by not staying still.

Question 7

Write a story on the topic : *An experience I'd love to have again.* (WASSCE 2008)

Answer**An Experience I'd Love to Have Again**

One day I met a group of preachers who preached to me. I really did not want to be preached to because I had my own religion and my own way of calling upon God, and I just thought they were wasting their time.

This preachers said "friend are you ready to meet God? what are you doing about the here after or are you one of those who care less about it?" I said to him "I'm trying my best in my religion and however no one really knew till that day who would make heaven.

He told me that, every religion may be telling us to try our best; but the one only personality who bodily and vindictively declared that "I am the way the truth and the life, is Jesus Christ".

Jesus really made it very simple for us when he said all we need is to be born again. I became interested and asked him to tell me more about this "born again experience". Then he said, it is a miracle which Jesus gives to everyone that accepts him as the Lord and only saviour. he continued, when you are born again by the spirit of God, you will immediately have love and desire to live right all ways.

After hearing all these, I said to the preacher "pray for me" I have some habits which I have been struggling to get rid of. I want Jesus to come into my heart. Then we prayed together. You know, after the prayer, I felt so good in me that I just cannot describe it in words. I felt so good and do not need any more tranquilizers to make me happy or calm.

This is an experience I would love to have again. Like a new born babe, I love people and I could trust people, I felt an assurance in my heart that I can meet God now; no more guilt.

Question 8

Write a story on the topic : *Indeed, it was the biggest lesson of my life.*

(WASSCE 2013)

Answer

Indeed, it was the biggest lesson of my life

It was a bright and very sunny day. I was the only one at home that Monday morning. I couldn't go to school because I was slightly ill. Since I had to stay home alone, my mom asked me to cook whatever I wanted to eat because she had to hurriedly go to work.

I went into the kitchen to prepare plantain pottage. I placed the pot of oil on fire, there was electricity so I went back to the living room to put the television on. As I put the T.V. on, I noticed it was time for my favourite programme so I stayed glued forgetting what I left on fire.

I was so engrossed in the programme that it was the smell of smoke that got me rushing to the kitchen. By that time, it was already too late. The tea towel I left on the gas cooker had already caught fire. In fact, it was difficult for me to locate the handle of the door as the room was thick with smoke. I tried calling for help and I think I heard a knock on the door but I couldn't be sure because yours truly was far gone. I must have fainted because the next thing I knew was I found myself on the hospital bed with my mother's face on my head. I tried asking for explanation but was asked to keep shut and get some rest.

I got discharged a few days later and learnt of the full story of how I got hospitalized. Honestly, it was a great lesson. I learnt through a costly one. I nearly burnt down the whole house and risked my own life too but, I learnt never to be careless or allow my attention to be divided – it is common with children of my age but it is not healthy at all.

Question 8

Write a story to illustrate the saying: The devil makes work for the idle hands.

(WASSCE 2014)

This story I am about to tell you may not be the most interesting story you've ever heard but I can assure you you will learn a lesson you will forever remember.

There was this class of forty-seven students of a male only school. It happened that on this particular day, which was a lesson free day, the student of SS 2 purple had very little to do with their time as the school prepared for their speech and Prize - Giving ceremony the following day. The class captain suggested that the class should engage in a game of strength. All the boys removed their shirts which is not unusual in a boys' school.

The game involved in connecting live wires to bring spark among other things. The game went on for a while and then one of the contestant in the game felt cheated out of a turn. He felt the best way to get his own back on the assumed cheat was to connect the wrong wires. His expectation was that there would be no spark and then the contestant that is, the alleged cheat would loose some points but unfortunately, he got more than he bargained for. The wrong connection brought out instead of no spark a real bang that shook the entire building. Everybody ran helter skelter in confusion and utter fear. Luck however was on their side as no visible harm was done. Many were seriously shaken as the fear of bomb was eminent.

What promise did I make at the beginning? That you will learn a big lesson at the end of this story. Even when it is no fault of yours that you suddenly find yourself in an idle state like SS 2 purple class did, find something worthwhile to do!

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY**Question 1**

Give a vivid description of the just concluded 2007 Gubernatorial and Presidential Election.
(NECO 2007)

Answer**The 2007 Gubernatorial and Presidential Election**

The House of Representative and Gubernatorial elections took place on the 21 of April 2007 while the Presidential election took place on the 14th of the same month. The two elections had been adjudged the worst elections Nigeria ever had and INEC, the Independent National Electoral Commission could not be exonerated from the charade. This election brought into power the Late Umaru Musa Yaradua as president and his cohorts of governors and parliamentarians.

The People's Democratic Party PDP, the ruling party in the country, made it difficult in several parts of the country for Nigerians to protect their electoral mandate. The citizens violated the law to accomplish their goal.

The 2007 House of Reps and Governorship elections took place under an ill-prepared and partial electoral commission. They were marred by reports of voters malfeasance and vote-rigging. In some areas of the country, polls opened either after significant delay or did not open at all. They were delayed supply of voters materials. Even though INEC concluded that the entire exercise was a huge success the majority of the national observers groups and international organizations concluded that INEC failed to deliver free and fair and credible elections.

The INEC preparation started early, nevertheless the entire process was shoddy and non-transparent. The voters registration was marred by complaints from the electorates and civil society groups. INEC introduced a Data capture machine to modernize the voters registration and to prevent multiple voting. Unfortunately the result of the exercise failed. The machines were faulty and insufficient as a result many Nigerian were disenfranchised. Some influential politicians harboured some machines in their houses to register votes illegally.

President Obasanjo then, made it clear that PDP must win the 2007 election by all means. This came to pass and PDP won the presidential, National and States Assembly and majorities of the Gubernatorial elections, but hundreds of Nigerians lost their lives for this to happen.

After the elections, the winners were announced without releasing the results of the election for Nigerians to see the details. So, many cases of rigging and electoral malpractice were recorded in all the states.

It is therefore worthwhile that for Nigeria's future elections to be credible, free and fair, a holistic review of all the defective provisions on electoral issues in Nigerian 1999 constitution and the 2006 Electoral Act must be revisited by the Nigerian legislature.

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY**Question 2**

Write a vivid description of any cultural festival in your village/town.

(NECO 2010)

Answer

THE IRI JI FESTIVAL IN ORAUKWU

The New Yam Festival of the Igbo people (Iwa Ji) is an annual Igbo festival held at the end of the raining season in the early part of August each year. The Iwa ji festival literally “new yam eating” is practised by the Igbo’s throughout West Africa (especially in Nigeria and Ghana) and other African countries symbolizing the conclusion of a harvest and the beginning of the next work cycle. The celebration is a very culturally based occasion, tying the individual Igbo community together as essentially agarian and dependent on yam.

The event prior to the day of the festival, all old yams (from previous year’s harvest) are consumed or discarded. The next day, only dishes of the new yam are served as the festival is symbolic of the abundance of the produce,.

The role of eating the first yam is performed by the oldest man in the community or the king (Igwe). He also offers the yam to God, deities or ancestors. The rituals are meant to express gratitude of the community to the gods for making the harvest possible, and they are widely followed despite more modern changes due to the influence of Christianity.

The day is symbolic for enjoyment after the planting season and the abundance is shared with friends and well wishers. A variety of dance steps marks the eating of new yam. Folk dance, masquerades, parades and fun fare.

The iri ji festival is an occasion the Igbos look forward to each year.

THE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

This essay involves the use of language persuasively, especially to win over the audience to one's view point. An Argumentative Essay topic has two sides to it - the topics are open to choice of either for or against. Some argumentative essay topics are given below:

- Write down arguments either for or against the proposition "Scientific Advancement Is a Curse to Mankind".
- Write a reasoned argument either for or against the motion "Television Has Done More Harm Than Good.

The argumentative essay may be roughly put under three categories

- For OR Against the motion/topic/proposition
- For AND Against the motion or topic
- The argument as a debate.

FOR OR AGAINST THE MOTION/TOPIC

You are offered a choice here. Examine the points for and against the topic and write on the side you think you can convincingly handle. Note that this is a one-sided argument and it should be written as such. Elsewhere this is known as the partisan method. The for or Against (Partisan method) can be structured in two ways.

Method A

- A Begin with an introduction and use the last sentence to state your stand.
- B In the second paragraph you may bring in the opposing view (i.e. Those on the side you did not choose). A point or two will be enough here.
- C In the third paragraph you come round to refute (prove to be wrong) the assumptions as fallacies, the points raised in the second paragraph. This can be extended into two paragraphs.
- D In the paragraph or paragraphs that follow add or discuss points on the side you have chosen.
- E Use the last paragraph to conclude your essay by for instance re-stating the main points and emphasizing your stance.

Also note the following

- Take a stand and stick to it. A candidate who writes on the two sides is throwing away precious marks.
- For a mark above the average, raise and develop about four points
- You earn credit for using persuasive language
- Ensure good paragraphing and logical sequencing of ideas.

Method B

You are not necessarily tied to using the structure (A to E) outlined above. Alternatively, you may avoid bringing in points on the opposing side. In other words, you can decide against raising points on the other side (which you will have to refute in the subsequent paragraphs). You can raise points which are all for or all against the topic.

Question 1

You have been invited to take part in an inter-school debate, the topic of which is: schooling in a village is more advantageous than schooling in a city. Write your speech for or against the motion.
(WASSCE 2002)

Answer

The Moderator, Panel of judges, Accurate Time Keeper, and my fellow-debaters, Good day I stand here today to refute the motion that “schooling in the village is more advantageous than schooling in the city. A village consists of small town located in a country side while a city is a large and important town where the population density is higher than that of a village.

Children attending school in the village face challenges of more abject poverty than those in the city. As a result, village schools have a hard time getting and retaining qualified teachers. No staff development due to salary and teaching conditions. Village teachers are less likely to receive health insurance and other fringe benefits. There is no gain-saying that students’ achievement and teachers quality go hand in hand in most cases.

Village school students are not exposed to new technologies. For students to be successful they must be able to use these new technologies. Unfortunately village schools still find it difficult to provide the latest technological trend that students need to excel in school. Technology helps students to develop personal responsibility and independence and prepares them for contemporary life. Schools in the villages are poverty-stricken to provide this.

In the village, finances and opportunities are not always available. Some lack good facilities for teaching and learning to be effective. Inadequate library, media centers, no access to computer and internet facilities.

Again, location of a school is a significant factor in students’ achievement. Schools in villages are far from nearby universities. As a result, rural students often miss the opportunity to participate in summer, remedial and some other programmes provided by these educational institutions.

With the above points, I have proved without all reasonable doubts that schooling in the village is not advantageous than schooling in the city.

Thank you.

Question 2

Your school’s Literary and Debating Society has organized a debate on the topic: “*The Television is Doing More Harm Than Good to Our Youths.*” Write your contribution for or against the topic.
(WASSCE 2003)

Answer

I propose the motion that “television is doing more harm than good to our Youths”.

Let me start this debate by defining the key terms of the topic. By “television” I mean an electronic device that allows the broadcasting of audio and visual contents to an audience; in this debate also all the programs shown on this device, either through regular Channels or on cable, at any time of day or night. By “harm” I mean anything that outweighs whatever good effects there may be, and by “Youth” I mean all young television viewers.

I, in the affirmative, believe that television is doing much more harm to our youths than good and I will prove that to my attentive audience.

I will focus on two key arguments. TV has unacceptable levels of sex and violence that cause harm to our youths and is a significant tool of rampant commercialization which victimizes its viewers.

I believe that TV causes harm to young viewers because of its increasing suggestive sexual and violent content. This kind of content is extremely damaging to the youths. Media violence makes our youths more aggressive, less patient and more fearful of the world around them. It encourages young viewers to commit acts of violence. A typical example is the young Nigerian by name Mutalab who tried unsuccessfully to bomb a U.S. aircraft in the latter part of 2011. Some youths watch aggressive cartoons with violent acts in them. This is likely to make them think that the world around them is a mean and violent place.

Furthermore, TV also encourages young viewers to have sex outside marriage, and this has led to so many social problems. It desensitizes young viewers to the evil nature of pre-marital sex and unprovoked violence. For example if one watches some of the TV soap operas, only one out of many, sexual act is done by married couple, the rest would be unmarried characters performing sexual acts.

All of these are conclusive proofs that TV leads to greater violence and pre-marital sex in society leading to further erosion in the values of our culture.

TV also encourages laziness and laxity to our youths. They find it very hard to read their books. Most of them get glued to TV stations after school hours. This of-course would lower the educational standard of a country.

If we truly want to build a more mature, responsible society, we must provide our youths with messages that affirm this kind of maturity and responsibility.

I, therefore, urge you to agree with the affirmative, and to let this motion fall, for children’s sake, and the future of our society.

Thank you.

Question 3

You are one of the speakers in a debate on the topic: *Women should not be in paid employment while they are still bearing children.* Write your contribution for or against the proposition. (WASSCE 2004)

Answer

The Chairman, Panel of Judges, Accurate Time-Keeper, My fellow-debaters and Audience. Gudday, my name is Vivian Obi, I stand here today to speak against the motion “Women should not be in paid employment while they are still bearing children”.

Before I do justice to the topic, I would like to explain what “paid employment” is. It is a situation where one is given work to do and being paid for it either in the public or private sector. In the ages past women especially those within the child bearing age were exempted from partaking in paid employment. This school of thought believes that women of child bearing age should stay at home and look after their families and homes; perhaps self employed. It has been observed that those mothers who work at home hardly find time for themselves. It is very difficult to work with kids around. Perhaps the hardest obstacle to overcome when working at home is separating personal and work life. Here again the ill effects of being trapped in the house all day is devastating.

Full-time working mothers who go out to various offices, are in better health condition than those who stay at home with the kids around them; physically and mentally, working mothers are advantaged.

Women who work have more energy, more mobility and less depression than their peers who stay at home with the kids. It gives them sense of purpose, self efficacy, control and autonomy. Work is good for one’s health, both mentally and physically.

Furthermore, considering the economic situation of the country, only one parent cannot take care of the needs of the family. Women should work and have more money and have job security than self-employed women with kids at home. In fact, staying at home makes women socially isolated than their working peers, which can contribute to poor mental health and problems like depression and inferiority complex.

It is true my opponent would argue that, pregnancy is a great obstacle to work efficiency. Employees have made it easier nowadays by giving maternity leave and its benefits to working mothers. Pregnancy and childbearing is not a disease. It is a divine call and women should not be discriminated against

Thank you.

Question 4

You have been invited to take part in a debate on the topic: *The mode of dressing of youth today leaves much to be desired*. Write your contribution for or against the topic.

(WASSCE 2005)

Answer

The moderator, Panel of Judges, Accurate Time Keeper, fellow-Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen, and my Fellow Students. Good day my name is Jessica Amarvi, I stand here to support the motion that, "The mode of dressing of youths today leaves much to be desired".

Indecent dressing or appearance has come to characterize the dress code of many youths in Nigeria today. There is hardly any state in the country today which is not faced with this nauseating problem of indecent dress mode. The way youths of nowadays dress, especially the female ones leaves much to be desired. The females dress seductively, what they call skirt is just 'one inch' longer than their pants. When they put on such dress they struggle to sit down, find it difficult in climbing motorcycles as well as pick any thing from the ground. Apart from the tight fitting nature of these dresses, they are again transparent, revealing certain parts of their bodies that under normal dressing pattern should be hidden away from the glare of the public.

In the case of boys, their pattern or mode of dress is different. It makes them to look dirty and very unattractive with unkempt hairs and dirty jeans having pockets of holes deliberately created around the knees and the lower part of the trousers. The waist of their trousers are lowered and fastened at the middle of the two bottom lobes to reveal their legs and one of their hands particularly the left one, cupping their invisible scrotum as if they will fall to the ground if not supported.

Is dressing synonymous to nudity? My opponent may say, our country is hot and we all have choices on what to wear, but they fail to accept the fact that, most youths because of the mode of dressing had at one time or the other become victims of rape or used for rituals. Although there are no universal mode of dressing, dresses are meant to serve some definable purposes. For crying out loud, dresses are meant to cover the intimate parts of the body and not vice versa. These purposes as important as they are have been defeated by the government of Nigeria youths. Their dress mode are invented and anti-African and shows how irresponsible they are:

Finally, indecent dress mode amongst youths of this generation has generated a lot of concern and worry among the citizenry of our country. Religious institution as well as institution of learning are not resting on and watch this immoral act being perpetuated, but they speak against it.

Parents should be good example to their children, give them attention and regulate the films they watch.

Indeed if all youths can be subjected to decent dress mode, then the future of this country will be a brighter one.

Thank you.

Question 5

You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic “*Wealth is more important than Health*”
Write your speech for or against the topic. (WASSCE 2006)

Answer

The Moderator, Panel of Judges, Time Keeper, Distinguished Audience, fellow-debaters, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good day my name is George, I stand to support the motion that “Wealth is more important than health”.

Without wealth, it may be difficult to find good health. This is because our living conditions may be poor thus, making it easy for health to diminish. The consistent lack of fresh and nutritious food will surely suffer the physical body, and as well, the emotional and intellectual parts in turn will reduce. We need money to keep moving especially in this our world of today, where wealth is power.

Without wealth, daily life will be a struggle, searching for ways to produce income by which to pay for shelter and food. This struggle will wane on our emotions and we will have little, if any contentment. There are many who yearn for financial wealth, yet few achieve it.

Those who are wealthy are surrounded by people, they are influential and can take care of any health matter with ease. Even if they die their funeral is the best reflection of their wealth. People will be filled to capacity and overflow outside. They are missed dearly, talked and written about. (Wealth is Power).

Good health is not a guarantee for a happy life. I have seen farmers, who are very healthy and strong. They work day by day and remain poor. They cannot build good houses. Their children too become farmers. Days go by without any feeling of happiness.

Although it may be controversial conclusion, but I would like to stress one point: rich people want good health while poor people prefer to have a lot of money.

Question 6

As a chief speaker in a debate on the topic “*Parents should choose careers for their children*”,
Write your speech for or against the motion. (WASSCE 2007)

Answer

The Moderator, panel of Judges, Accurate Time Keeper, Distinguished Audience and my fellow-Debaters. My name is Vivian, I stand to oppose the motion that parents should choose career, for their children. Let me define career, as a sequence of occupations, jobs and position engaged in or occupied through out the life time of an individuals.

Nowadays, many Students say that they are forced to opt for a career. There is parental pressure to conform to career choice. I believe that children should have more freedom in choosing their vocation. It will be disastrous to choose for a child what he does not have the ability to do just because it carries a name. For example a certain man decided that his son should be a medical doctor and paid his way into the university for him to read medicine. The Child ended up in disappointment.

After some years of wasted money and efforts, the boy dropped the course for accountancy and his story changed from failure to success.

I totally disagree with the speaker on the motion that children should not make their own career choice, because of immaturity and lack of experience. Children in the senior secondary classes know their areas of best performance and interest. This is a good guide for choosing career. Their experience and tests in a variety of subjects they learnt at school help them to assess their ability. The career choice of a student who performs very well in Arts or Social Sciences but poorly in the Natural Sciences cannot be a medical doctor.

These days, while there is so much talk of non-challant presents, increasingly there seems to be the opposite problems of over - parenting. Parents are making themselves slavishly available to their offspring well into adulthood with disastrous long-term result. For most people independence is the magic ticket to self-reliance and self-esteem.

With these points of mine, I have been able to convince my audience beyond all reasonable doubts that parents should not choose careers for their children.

Thank you.

Question 6

You are the main speaker in a debate on the topic: Technology has made the world a better place. Write your arguments for or against the motion. (WASSCE 2014)

Good afternoon Mr Chairman, Accurate Time-Keeper, unbiased Panel of Judges, my co-debaters and ever attentive Audience.

I am here this afternoon to convince this wonderful audience that technology has made the world a better place. Technology is a way of practicalizing scientific discoveries. It is no wonder therefore that technology has truly turned the world around.

I am going to take my audience through various paths of the use of technology with the hope of convincing you that technology has improved the world. I will be looking at work place, and home. At work, we work faster and better through the use of equipment such as the computer, E-learning facilities such as overhead projector and audio-visual aids. The use of these equipment facilitates faster work while it simultaneously reduce number of staff who can be absorbed in other areas. So, this method guarantees profit and excellence.

At home, the benefit is listless. The career woman who spends more than half of her life in the office is given a chance to equally save her home how? There are several gadgets that can get breakfast or even dinner ready faster than the speed of light. Not only food, chores like cloth washing, plate washing and a lot more is made easy and fast. This way, the career woman copes well with both home and office.

Technology makes travelling easy and fascinating. But beyond this comfort, the availability of the train among other wonders of technology facilitates easy transport of goods stuffs from one town to another which in turn ensures that not so much profit is made from goods on account of expenses in transport.

My opponent know it that they cannot argue against my points as they themselves are direct beneficiaries of the wonders of technology. In the comfort of their houses and schools, they use air-conditioners, they watch the latest programmes on television and to convey them today to the venue of this debate, they has a vehicle to bring them; what more can we ask for!

I conclude therefore that I strongly believe and have convinced all without any exception that technology has made the world a better place.

Thank you.

Exercises

Describe to your friend in another school how campaigns are conducted during the election of your prefects

“The scientist is today, man’s greatest enemy”. Write an argument for or against this proposition

Write a story that illustrates the saying: “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”

Write a story beginning with the words “Theirs was a happy family until.....”

In commemoration of your country Independence Day anniversary, you have been chosen to contribute to a debate on the motion: “That Television is doing our society more harm than good”. Write your speech for or against the motion.

Write a story that illustrate the saying “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”

Explain how to prepare a favourite dish of your choice to someone interested in learning how to make it

Write a story to illustrate the saying. “Those who live in glass house should not throw stones”.

Your school Board of Governor’s has invited nominations for the best teacher award in your school. Write a detailed description of the teacher you would nominate emphasizing the qualities that make him or her suitable for the award

“Parents are to blame for the increase cases of teenage pregnancy in the country.”
Write a reasonable argument for or against this topic.