

HiSET Essay Format

For the written response portion of the HiSET Language Arts Writing test you will read two articles debating an issue. You will decide which article presents the best argument and write a response. Basically, you are writing about why you agree with the article. Use evidence (quotes, facts, dates, people, etc.) from the article to support your point of view.

Here is the suggested format for the essay:

Paragraph I. Introduction (4 sentences)

State the issue/debate

State your opinion/point of view (P.O.V.)

Name the source and author if given

Paragraph II. Opposite P.O.V. (3-4 sentences)

This brief paragraph acknowledges the opposing P.O.V. but does not support it.

Paragraph III. Your P.O.V. (evidence-based)(5-6 sentences)

Use quotes, facts, dates, experts, etc. from the article to support your P.O.V.

Paragraph IV. Your P.O.V. (real-life experience-based)(5-6 sentences)

You will discuss related events/ideas/experiences to the ones mentioned in the article. Use evidence from the article and other sources, whether from firsthand experience or something you have read or seen, to support your P.O.V.

Paragraph V. Conclusion (3-4 sentences)

Restate the issue and your P.O.V.

Persuasive Writing: Signal Words

Transitional Phrases

Introductory Phrases

In my opinion

I believe

It is my belief that

There is no doubt that

From my point of view

It seems to me that

I question whether

I (dis)agree with

I maintain that

Concluding Phrases

For the reasons above

As you can see

As I have noted

On the whole

In short

Without a doubt

Obviously

Unquestionably

In brief

Undoubtedly

In any case

In any event

Supporting Opinions

First Furthermore

Second In addition

Third Also

Finally Last

Equally important

In the first place

Likewise

Besides Further

Next Again

Moreover Similarly

Introducing Details

For example

In fact

As evidence

For instance

In support of this

Cause and Effect

Since

Because of

Due to

For this reason

Therefore

If...then

Caused by

This results in

Consequently

Accordingly

As a result of

Leads to

In effect

Brought about

Made possible

As might be expected

Give rise to

Was responsible for

Compare and Contrast

Similarly

Compared to

Likewise

On the other hand

Even though

In the same way

Contrasting

As opposed to

Rather than

Nevertheless

Have in common

All are

Conversely

Whether or not

In spite of

Countering

I realize you

I understand you

Even though you

Although you

Some people

It may be that you

Your idea to _____ deserves

some merit

But

Yet

However

I doubt

