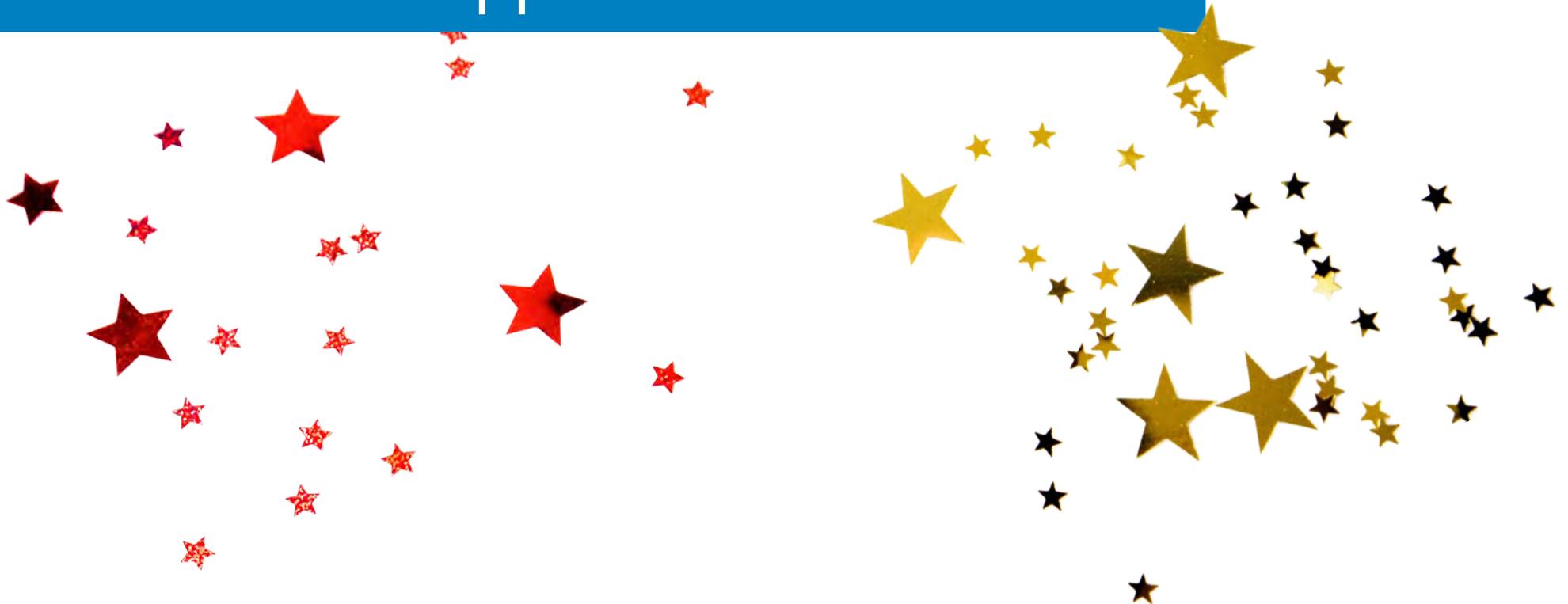


The cult of celebrities: essay writing lesson

Intermediate – Upper-Intermediate level



Task 1. Warm-up

Using the words in the box, discuss the following questions with your teacher and/or classmates:

1. Have you ever dreamed of being famous? Why/why not?
2. What is the influence of social networks on the way people perceive celebrities?
3. Do you think there are any celebrities who can be described as role models for teenagers?

Useful words

- the cult of celebrity
- to get media attention
- lack of privacy
- fame
- celebrated/renowned/
distinguished/prominent
- A-list(er)/B-list(er)/Z-list(er)
- to make a name for
yourself
- to make a splash
- to steal the limelight
- to be in the public eye

Task 2. Lead-in

Read the quotes on being famous and compare the attitudes to fame.

There are pitfalls, lack of privacy, loss of privacy, and that's not for everyone. For me, I can handle it.

Kim Kardashian

For a few years I did feel I was on a psychic treadmill, trying to keep up with where I was. Everything changed so rapidly, so strangely. I knew no one who'd been in the public eye... I felt that I have to solve everyone's problems...

Joan Rowling

Task 3. Understanding the exam task

You should spend about **40 minutes** on the task. **Write an essay** on the following topic:

Teenagers nowadays are obsessed with celebrities' lifestyles and often attempt to follow their career paths. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living a celebrity's life and give your opinion.

Write **150-200 words***

Use the following **plan**:

1. Introduction

- state the problem
- state that the subject under discussion has both advantages and disadvantages

2. Main Body

- Body paragraph 1: develop **a full argument** focusing on an advantage of the subject
- Body paragraph 2: develop **a full argument** focusing on a disadvantage of the subject

3. Conclusion

- summarise the main points of your essay and **give your opinion on the topic.**

*Your essay can be 10% above or below this word limit.

Task 4. Understanding the assessment criteria

Read the assessment criteria excerpts and name them using the list below:

Communicative task achievement • Text structure • Vocabulary • Grammar • Punctuation and spelling

1. The text is logically divided and no less than three linking devices are used appropriately.
2. The essay has a neutral style.
3. A variety of vocabulary is used appropriately and in accordance with the essay's topic.
4. This task is complete: it consists of an introduction, two body paragraphs, and the conclusion. The problem is stated and the two opposing views on it are presented.
5. Grammar structures of both complex and simple types are used effectively and accurately.
6. The text contains a maximum of 2 punctuation/spelling errors.

Task 5. Writing the essay: revising the linking devices

1. Based on the essay structure, what type(s) of the linking devices are necessary to be used in the essay?
2. Choose **True** or **False** for each statement below:

- a) Main body paragraphs 1 and 2 can be started with: On the first hand,.../On the second hand,...
- b) For the conclusion, you can use the following phrases:
- c) – To sum up, .../To summarize, .../In conclusion, ...
- d) Among the phrases for expressing opinion are: I believe,.../ In my view,.../To my mind,...
- e) You don't need to use any linking devices to provide an explanation for each of the arguments mentioned.

Task 6. Identifying the problem

1. Read the topic and underline the key words

Teenagers nowadays are obsessed with celebrities' lifestyles and often attempt to follow their career paths. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living a celebrity's life and give your opinion.

2. How would you describe the essay's problem? Give a detailed explanation.



Task 7. Writing the second and third paragraphs

(arguments “for” and “against”)

1. Study the table and comment on the ideas presented in it

Living a celebrity's life

What makes this idea so appealing to teenagers?

What makes this idea so appealing to teenagers?

Throughout history, famous people have always been admired and discussed by the public.

Many people consider being a celebrity just an easy way to accumulate wealth without working hard.

When someone becomes famous, it opens up more career opportunities, for instance, launching a beauty or clothing brand.

There are many scandals and no privacy when you are a celebrity.

Task 7. Writing the second and third paragraphs

(arguments “for” and “against”)

2. Complete the following task:

- *Choose whether you want to elaborate on the argument “for” or “against”. Explain the argument in detail and then exchange positions with your classmate/teacher.*

3. Write down your own arguments “for” and “against” and share the ideas with your teacher/partner.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Task 8. Writing conclusion

Read the topic again and analyse if the conclusion is written effectively. Then suggest your version

Teenagers nowadays are obsessed with celebrities' lifestyles and often attempt to follow their career paths. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living a celebrity's life and give your opinion.

Variant 1: In conclusion, teenagers want to be popular because they do not want to spend a long time studying and just want to make money in an easier way. I strongly disagree with this attitude.

Variant 2: To sum up, being a celebrity comes with its perks and its drawbacks. Having such a life sounds appealing enough to me, however, one should carefully consider if it is worth the risks, such as privacy invasion.

Your variant:

Task 9. Essay writing practice

Use the vocabulary and ideas discussed previously to write the essay

Paragraph	Useful constructions
Introduction	Nowadays the issue/problem of X is widely discussed. Some people claim that ... , while others deny it. This essay will look at some pros and cons of
Argument “for”	On the one hand,.../It can be argued that... . Moreover,.../Furthermore,... .

Task 9. Essay writing practice

Use the vocabulary and ideas discussed previously to write the essay

Paragraph	Useful constructions
Argument “against”	On the other hand,/However,.../Having said that,... .
Conclusion	To sum up,.../In conclusion, In my opinion,.../ To my mind,



Task 10. Check yourself

1. The essay type is called:

- a) Opinion essay
- b) “For” and “against” essay
- c) Problem and solution/cause and effect essay

2. The student must finish the task within:

- a) 1 hour
- b) 45 minutes
- c) 40 minutes

3. The length of the essay is:

- a) Less than 150 words
- b) 150 – 200 words ($\pm 10\%$)
- c) 200 – 250 words ($\pm 10\%$)

4. The essay will not be checked if a student has:

- a) 149 words
- b) 135 words
- c) Less than 135 words

5. Criteria for assessment include:

- a) Communicative task achievement, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary
- b) Communicative task achievement, vocabulary and grammar, text structure
- c) Communicative task achievement, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation, text structure

Task 4.

- 1) Text structure; 2) Communicative task achievement; 3) Vocabulary;
4) Communicative task achievement; 5) Grammar; 6) Punctuation and spelling.

NB! To familiarise your students with the essay requirements, follow the link:

https://school.hse.ru/data/2021/12/10/1772165083/5%20Иностранный%20язык_допматериалы.pdf

Task 5:

1. - F, 2. - T, 3. - T, 4. - F

Task 6. Identifying the problem

Possible keywords: *teenagers, obsessed, celebrities' lifestyle, follow, their career paths, advantages, disadvantages, your opinion.*

Task 10. Check yourself

- 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.c, 4.c

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