

Sample Essay Assignment, Response and Review

1 **ER050209**

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3 Diversity can be a positive factor in building team spirit. However, if being handled
4 inappropriately, it can break a team.

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6 Task:

7 Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Write an essay to express your view,
8 using your studies, experience or observations to support your position.
9 (Time allowed: 25 minutes)

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12 **Sample of a reviewed essay**

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14 The words “differences” and “teamwork” often do not find themselves in the
15 same sentence. That is because it is difficult for a team to complete a goal or project
16 unless they overcome differences. I agree with the statement that if being handled
17 inappropriately, ~~#diversity~~ can break a team.

18 First and foremost, in my experience I have found better results when working
19 alone than ~~when working~~ with other people. With that said, it is safe to assume that a
20 team with people who are not similar will never be able to efficiently complete a
21 common goal. Mentally, the team will only be able to concentrate on the differences
22 that each ~~one of its members~~ brings. Sure, a diverse team usually means a larger array
23 of skills to select from. ~~But~~ However, there is always the lurking ~~factor~~ possibility that
24 a member may become depreciated due to his lesser skills, and thus cause ~~a sort of~~
25 revolt. Take the American Revolution for example. Although the colonists and the
26 mainland British were working ~~on the same as a~~ ‘team’ against the French in the
27 French and Indian War (or the Seven Years War as it was called in Europe), the
28 colonists were looked down upon. ~~The latter because they~~ were thought to be
29 undisciplined, even though they played a large role in ~~the defeat of defeating the~~
30 French.

31 ~~Also~~ Secondly, it is very common ~~for the that~~ diversity in a team ~~does to~~ not
32 ~~even~~ help, but rather harm the project. As mentioned before, a diverse team would
33 mean a larger array of skills to work ~~from with~~. However, it is possible that one
34 member who specializes in skill “A” might not know what a member ~~who~~
35 specializes ~~d~~ -in skill “B” wants. This would cause misinterpretation and
36 miscommunication ~~throughout within~~ the team. For example, in a typical game design
37 company, ~~the a~~ team is likely made up of artists, programmers, designers, and beta
38 testers. Artists usually have little, if any, knowledge of ~~how to program programming~~,

Comment [EP1]: Be careful not to give impression that you are misunderstanding the topic sentence. Did you intend to say “diversity” and “team spirit”?

Comment [EP2]: Incorrect, who are the “they” here? Look out for pronoun-antecedent agreement rule.

Comment [EP3]: Try to stick to the issue of diversity if you can, to keep yourself on track. Or, you can explain or elaborate a little here. “Diversity” and “differences” are not the same.

Comment [EP4]: Use “can only” as an alternative since you have used “will...be able to...” in the previous sentence.

Comment [EP5]: Word choice.

Comment [EP6]: Run-on sentence.

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39 and ~~thus~~ may criticize the programmers for doing something. Vice versa, d Designers
 40 ~~however,~~ may not be able to see appreciate what the artists wants to express, and thus
 41 may put down ~~his-the latter's~~ works. In addition, b Beta testers ~~might may~~ not even
 42 like ~~what how~~ the designers ~~did to craft~~ the game, and may even propagate rumors in
 43 the underground gaminge -community, ~~saying how bad that~~ the game will be bad.
 44 Thus, having a team of people who are ~~more or less equivalent~~ compatible to each
 45 other will be more beneficial to the team.

Comment [EP7]: Something like what? Be specific.

Comment [EP8]: Vocabulary.

46 Finally, there may be biases among team members because of the due to
 47 diversity, especially racial or /ethnic backgrounds. In many past American wars for
 48 example, blacks were looked down upon in the army, and often had their own
 49 battalion to commandeer. It is very possible that ~~either~~ one of these groups had
 50 resentful feelings towards the other. Although it is true that America has had won
 51 most of these major wars, having a totally white or totally black army might have
 52 increased the soldiers' morale; This is because once they realized see that they are
 53 were all equal to one another, there would be and have no differences to argue about.

Comment [EP9]: Run-on sentences.

Comment [EP10]: You did not suggest in detail how positive diversity can be in a team, now using "powerful" to describe diversity, you may undermine the conviction of your view.

Comment [EP11]: You could have chosen a better word than this.

Comment [EP12]: Do not begin sentences with "because".

54 In conclusion, although diversity can be a very powerful thing for teamwork, it
 55 is ~~more than~~ often a rather harmful factor for a team, and should be avoided. Because
 56 ~~of~~ Due to the ~~danger~~ inclination to alienate, misinterpret, or resent one another,
 57 ~~different diverse background~~ team mates would will usually not be able to work well
 58 with one another, especially in tense situations.

61 **Based on the SAT holistic scoring approach, your score for this essay will likely**
 62 **be: 4**

63 Note: In holistic scoring, the essay is read in its entirety and scored based on overall impression,
 64 instead of feature by feature. (Please refer to the Scoring Guide at www.essay-practice.com home
 65 page)
 66

68 **Scoring by category:** (The essay is scored feature by feature for writing skills **improvement**
 69 **purpose only.**)
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Category	Score	Skills Demonstrated
Overall Substance	4	The essay develops a valid point of view. Competent critical thinking is demonstrated and supported by examples, reasons and previous studies.
Organization	4/5	The overall flow is organized and well focused. There is coherence and relevance in the supporting

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		examples. Ideas are smoothly progressed.
Diction	4	Adequate yet inconsistent mastery of language, generally appropriate use of vocabulary.
Sentence structure	4	Some variety of sentence structure exhibited.
Syntax	3/4	Some errors in grammar, usage and mechanics.

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Reviewer's comments and improvement suggestions:

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Dear writer,

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Your essay is quite well written overall, with a clear point of view in the first paragraph. The organization of the essay is typical and easy to follow. Each succeeding paragraph also has a theme statement, followed by explanation and illustrations. Furthermore, the examples are valid in supporting each theme statement. The essay demonstrates that you were able to say what you wanted to say and said it eloquently. However, there are a few items you may want to look out as you refine your writing skills.

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In the 1st paragraph - introduction, you have a jump from discussing "differences", "teamwork" to agreeing the statement on "diversity". The reader needs to see how the ideas transit from one to the other.

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Notice that the word 'although' has been used 3 times; you should try to present more variety in your sentence structure and inject more vocabularies to express your ideas. This is evident as you read the inserted comments.

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The illustrations in the 3rd paragraph have become repetitive and are starting to lose the attention of your audience (see line # 37 – 42). Be concise in expressing you point.

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In the conclusion, if you do want to weigh the cost-benefit of diversity, I suggest you present the benefit of diversity in building team spirit, then immediately refute it and then reemphasize how diversity can break a team. Be careful not to introduce new observations at the end (see line#59 re "tense situations"). On the contrary, an application of your thesis may help convince the reader further.

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Wishing you the best on your test,

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Essay-Practice

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