

## Cause/Effect Essay: A Cultural Value

For this essay, you will identify and explain a value in your home culture. For that value, you will address the following points (not necessarily in this order):

- 1) Provide a definition/explanation of the value or set of values you will focus on.
- 2) Practical effects of the value:
  - a. In what ways does having this value influence the way **you** live your life/make decisions/see issues?
  - b. In what ways does this value influence the way **your family** lives their life/makes decisions/see issues?
  - c. How does this value affect the way your **peers (friends, work colleagues, etc.)** live their lives?
  - d. What effects does this value have on daily life/decision making/etc. **in your country as a whole?**
- 3) How did I learn this value?
  - a. Who taught you this value?
  - b. How did they teach it to you?
- 4) Why do people in your country have this value?
  - a. What conditions (environmental, social, religious, historical, etc.) have helped promote this value in society?
  - b. Why does this value continue to endure in your country?
  - c. What types of mechanisms are in place to insure that this value is obeyed and transmitted in society?
  - d. Are there any current threats to this value in your society?
- 5) Reflection on your findings to questions (1)-(4)
  - a. What are the strengths of having this value?
  - b. What are the weaknesses of having this value?
  - c. How do you react/what do you think when you encounter someone who does not have this value?
  - d. What other values come into conflict with this value (i.e. what is a different value someone else might hold that causes them to take a stance on things that goes against the value you hold)?
  - e. How might such conflicts be resolved while staying true to both your values?

Your essay should be a minimum of 4 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font with 1 inch margins all around).

You will be graded on:

- A) Content: The essay answers the questions above in a depth appropriate for a college essay. Evidence is used to support claims. [60pts]
- B) Coherency/Flow: The essay is coherently arranged, paragraphs are well organized, and there are appropriate transitions between sections. [30pts]

C) Expression: Information and ideas are clearly articulated throughout the paper. Editing has occurred and effort has been made to correct spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes (as evidenced by turning in all parts of the writing process). [10pts]