

Prompt: What are some of the problems associated with watching a movie at a theater?

Sample Essay #1

I am a movie fanatic. When friends want to know what picture won the Oscar in 1980 or who played the police chief in *Jaws*, they ask me. My friends, though, have stopped asking me if I want to go out to the movies. The problems in getting to the theater, the theater itself, and the behavior of some patrons are all reasons why I often wait for a movie to show up on TV.

First of all, just getting to the theater presents difficulties. Leaving a home equipped with a TV and a video recorder isn't an attractive idea on a humid, cold, or rainy night. Even if the weather cooperates, there is still a thirty-minute drive to the theater down a congested highway, followed by the hassle of looking for a parking space. And then there are the lines. After hooking yourself to the end of a human chain, you worry about whether there will be enough tickets, whether you will get seats together, and whether many people will sneak into the line ahead of you.

Once you have made it to the box office and gotten your tickets, you are confronted with the problems of the theater itself. If you are in one of the run-down older theaters, you must adjust to the musty smell of seldom-cleaned carpets. Escaped springs lurk in the faded plush or cracked leather seats, and half the seats you sit in seem loose or tilted so that you sit at a strange angle. The newer twin and quad theaters offer their own problems. Sitting in an area only one-quarter the size of a regular theater, moviegoers often have to put up with the sound of the movie next door. This is especially jarring when the other movie involves racing cars or a karate war and you are trying to enjoy a quiet love story. And whether the theater is old or new, it will have floors that seem to be coated with rubber cement. By the end of a movie, shoes almost have to be pried off the floor because they have become sealed to a deadly compound of spilled soda, hardening bubble gum, and crushed Ju-Jubes.

Some of the patrons are even more of a problem than the theater itself. Little kids race up and down the aisles, usually in giggling packs. Teenagers try to impress their friends by talking back to the screen, whistling, and making what they consider to be hilarious noises. Adults act as if they were at home in their own living rooms and comment loudly on the ages of the stars or why

movies aren't as good anymore. And people of all ages crinkle candy wrappers, stick gum on their seats, and drop popcorn tubs or cups of crushed ice and soda on the floor. They also cough and burp, squirm endlessly in their seats, file out for repeated trips to the rest rooms or concession stand, and elbow you out of the armrest on either side of your seat.

After arriving home from the movies one night, I decided that I was not going to be a moviegoer anymore. I was tired of the problems involved in getting to the movies and dealing with the theater itself and some of the patrons. The next day I arranged to have cable TV service installed in my home. I may now see movies a bit later than other people, but I'll be more relaxed watching box office hits in the comfort of my own living room.

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Name: **Essay #1 (Movie)** Reader **CAT** Date: **6/2/10**

NEIT Essay Scoring Guide Scoring Form

<p>Content Score range 1-5 score: 4</p>	<p>Thesis Yes Plan of development Yes Evidence/ details support thesis Intro’s “hook” could be more detailed. Clear, consistent stand from start to finish Yes</p>
<p>Organization Score range 1-5 score: 5</p>	<p># of paragraphs 5 Engaging introduction Yes; Conclusion is convincing. Ideas are arranged in a clear, logical manner Yes Topic sentences Yes Transitions move reader from paragraph to paragraph Smooth transitions</p>
<p>Voice/ Vocabulary Score range 1-5 Score: 5</p>	<p>Speaks directly to reader Yes Uses convincing tone/seems committed to topic Very committed Uses strong, specific word choices Uses strong verbs/adjectives Creates strong images/uses figurative language “After hooking yourself...” Shows problems with missing words, wordiness, or <u>unnecessary words</u> (III)</p>
<p>Sentence Structure Score range 1-5 Score: 5</p>	<p>Free from run –on sentences and fragments Yes Accurate word order Yes Varied sentence beginnings and lengths Yes Transitions help sentences flow smoothly from one idea to the next Definitely Free from awkward wording Yes</p>
<p>Grammar & Mechanics Score range 1-5 score: 5</p>	<p>Major errors <u> 1 </u> (*verb forms/tenses, S-V agreement, pronoun agreement/ reference, <u>shift in voice</u>, parallelism) Minor errors <u> 1 </u> (*noun plurals, Adjective/adverbs, articles, prepositions, spelling, <u>punctuation</u>, capital letters, abbreviations, Numbers, Italics)</p>
<p>Totals Maximum score 25 Overall score: 23</p>	<p>Total Score: 23 Placement: EN 102 This essay meets placement scoring standard for Nursing applicants.</p>

Prompt: How is tent-camping different from other types of camping?

Sample Essay #2

Each year, thousands of people throughout the United States choose to spend their vacations camping in the great outdoors. Depending on an individual's sense of adventure, there are various types of camping to choose from, including log cabin camping, recreational vehicle camping, and tent-camping. Of these, tent-camping involves "roughing it" the most, and with proper planning the experience can be gratifying. Even with the best planning, however, tent-camping can be an extremely frustrating experience due to uncontrolled factors such as bad weather, wildlife encounters, and equipment failures.

Nothing can dampen the excited anticipation of camping more than a dark, rainy day. Even the most adventurous campers can lose some of their enthusiasm on the drive to the campsite if the skies are dreary and damp. After reaching their destination, campers must then "set up camp" in the downpour. This includes keeping the inside of the tent dry and free from mud, getting the sleeping bags situated dryly, and protecting food from the downpour. If the sleeping bags happen to get wet, the cold also becomes a major factor. A sleeping bag actually provides warmth on a camping trip; a wet sleeping bag provides none. Combining wind with rain can cause frigid temperatures, causing any outside activities to be delayed. Even inside the tent problems may arise due to heavy winds. More than a few campers have had their tents blown down because of the wind, which once again begins the frustrating task of "setting up camp" in the downpour. It is wise to check the weather forecast before embarking on camping trips; however, mother nature is often unpredictable and there is no guarantee bad weather will be eluded.

Another problem likely to be faced during a camping trip is run-ins with wildlife, which can range from mildly annoying to dangerous. Minor inconveniences include mosquitoes and ants. The swarming mosquitoes can literally drive annoyed campers indoors. If an effective repellent is not used, the camper can spend an interminable night scratching, which will only worsen the itch. Ants do not usually attack campers, but keeping them out of the food can be quite an inconvenience. Extreme care must be taken not to leave food out before or after meals. If food is stored inside the tent, the tent must never be left open. In addition to swarming the food, ants inside a tent can crawl into sleeping bags and clothing. Although these insects cause minor discomfort, some wildlife encounters are potentially dangerous. There are many poisonous snakes in the United States, such as the water moccasin and the diamond-back rattlesnake. When hiking in the woods, the camper must be careful where he steps. Also, the tent must never be left open. Snakes, searching for either shade from the sun or shelter from the rain, can enter a tent.

An encounter between an unwary camper and a surprised snake can prove to be fatal. Run-ins can range from unpleasant to dangerous, but the camper must realize that they are sometimes inevitable.

Perhaps the least serious camping troubles are equipment failures; these troubles often plague families camping for the first time. They arrive at the campsite at night and haphazardly set up their nine-person tent. They then settle down for a peaceful night's rest. Sometime during the night the family is awakened by a huge crash. The tent has fallen down. Sleepily, they awake and proceed to set up the tent in the rain. In the morning, everyone emerges from the tent, except for two. Their sleeping bag zippers have gotten caught. Finally, after fifteen minutes of struggling, they free themselves, only to realize another problem. Each family member's sleeping bag has been touching the sides of the tent. A tent is only waterproof if the sides are not touched. The sleeping bags and clothing are all drenched. Totally disillusioned with the "vacation," the frustrated family packs up immediately and drives home. Equipment failures may not seem very serious, but after campers encounter bad weather and annoying pests or wild animals, these failures can end any remaining hope for a peaceful vacation.

These three types of camping troubles can strike campers almost anywhere. Until some brilliant scientist invents a weather machine to control bad weather or a kind of wildlife repellent, unlucky campers will continue to shake their fists in frustration. More than likely, equipment will continue to malfunction. Even so, camping continues to be a favorite pastime of people all across the United States. If you want camping to be a happy experience for you, learn to laugh at leaky tents, bad weather, and bugs, or you will find yourself frustrated and unhappy..

http://www.sandhills.edu/english/essaybasics/5_paragraph_essay.html

Name: **Essay #2 (Tent-camping)** Reader **CAT** Date: **6/2/10**

NEIT Essay Scoring Guide Scoring Form

<p>Content Score range 1-5 score: 5</p>	<p>Thesis Yes Plan of development Yes Evidence/ details support thesis Excellent support of thesis Clear, consistent stand from start to finish Very consistent; strong</p>
<p>Organization Score range 1-5 score: 5</p>	<p># of paragraphs 5 Engaging introduction Yes; Conclusion is strong/convincing. Ideas are arranged in a clear, logical manner Yes Topic sentences Yes Transitions move reader from paragraph to paragraph Easy, natural flow from paragraph to paragraph</p>
<p>Voice/ Vocabulary Score range 1-5 Score: 5</p>	<p>Speaks directly to reader Definitely! Uses convincing tone/seems committed to topic Very committed Uses strong, specific word choices Uses strong verbs/adjectives Creates strong images/uses figurative language “Mother nature is...” Shows problems with missing words, wordiness, or unnecessary words No</p>
<p>Sentence Structure Score range 1-5 Score: 5</p>	<p>Free from run –on sentences and fragments Yes Accurate word order Yes Varied sentence beginnings and lengths Yes Transitions help sentences flow smoothly from one idea to the next Effective trans. Free from awkward wording Yes</p>
<p>Grammar & Mechanics Score range 1-5 score: 5</p>	<p>Major errors _____ (*verb forms/tenses, S-V agreement, pronoun agreement/ reference, shift in voice, parallelism)</p> <p>Minor errors <u> 1 </u> _____ (*noun plurals, Adjective/adverbs, articles, prepositions, spelling, <u>punctuation</u>, capital letters, abbreviations, Numbers, Italics)</p>
<p>Totals Maximum score 25 Overall score: 25</p>	<p>Total Score: 25 Placement: EN 102 This essay meets placement scoring standard for Nursing applicants.</p>

Prompt: In your opinion, should high school be extended to five years?

Sample Essay #3 – This essay does not meet placement scoring standard for Nursing applicants.

Demand for more credits, community service, and better grades runs many high schoolers ragged. For many anything but the best is unacceptable. In a society that constantly tells it's youth they have the highest pay check and newest car to be happy, why shouldn't this be the case? A fifth year of high school will give students more oppurtunity to take classes they would enjoy, take stress off of the teenagers, and give the youth of our nation a chance to develop good priorities.

Schools are always adding new and interesting courses, but for many, like the college bound student, there just isn't the time. Though an arts and crafts class might sound like fun, something like AP Music Theory would probably look better on a transcript. Since there is no time to take both the student will probably take the harder class even if it is just to keep up appearances. Fifteen years old seems to early to start making "career" choices over things that wold be fun, But it happens and it causes stress.

Teenagers in this country have an ever growing load of stress being placed upon them. Starting before high school tens are faced with the questions: Where are you going to college? How are you going to get there? What are you going to be? All these questions are extremely daunting and often stress students out. Also, with the price of college so high many students take on a job during high school which only adds to the stress. With an extra year of high school not only would students have time to think through big decisions, but they would also be better able to balance work with school.

Time is so fleeting in this day and age. There is never enough time. No time for family, no time for relaxing, no time for sleep. Even if some time is stolen to recooperate, aren't the youth told that if they rest at home or sleep too much they are lazy and worthless?! While too much "vegging" could be a problem, teens need to know what is important and necessary for their mental and emotional health. At the pace of many highs schoolers lives, this generation is sure to be one full of workaholics. Is that really what are society needs? When the lesson students learn in school is one that exhausts them and sets them up for an unhealthy lifestyle in their future, it is time for a change.

With such a high demands placed on the youth of our nation, it seems only fair that they are given more time. They are only young once. Teens should not be forced to grow up at such a fast pace. An extra year of high school will allow students to enjoy their education by giving them the gift of time, time to relax, time to take classes at their own pace and maintain a healthy lifestyle, time to discover the fun and interest in school. More time in high school will benefit students now and in the future.

***Single words are highlighted to point out problems with spelling or word choice (ex. it's/its, to/too, are/our).

www.actstudent.org/writing/sample/textsamples.html

Name: **Essay #3 (High School)** Reader **CAT** Date: **6/8/10**

NEIT Essay Scoring Guide Scoring Form

<p>Content Score range 1-5</p> <p>score: <u> 5 </u></p>	<p>Thesis Yes Plan of development Yes Evidence/ details support thesis Yes Clear, consistent stand from start to finish Definitely</p>
<p>Organization Score range 1-5</p> <p>score: <u> 4 </u></p>	<p># of paragraphs 5 Engaging introduction Yes, but could be more detailed; Conclusion is good. Ideas are arranged in a clear, logical manner Yes Topic sentences Yes Transitions move reader from paragraph to paragraph Yes</p>
<p>Voice/ Vocabulary Score range 1-5</p> <p>Score: <u> 4 </u></p>	<p>Speaks directly to reader Yes Uses convincing tone/seems committed to topic Yes Uses strong, specific word choices Some... “daunting, stress” Creates strong images/uses figurative language Some... “vegging” Shows problems with missing words, wordiness, or <u>unnecessary words</u> I Word choice III</p>
<p>Sentence Structure Score range 1-5</p> <p>Score: <u> 4 </u></p>	<p>Free from <u>run –on</u> sentences and <u>fragments</u> II Accurate word order Yes Varied sentence beginnings and lengths Yes Transitions help sentences flow smoothly from one idea to the next A few choppy spots due to r-o, frags, etc. Free from awkward wording Usually</p>
<p>Grammar & Mechanics Score range 1-5</p> <p>score: <u> 2 </u></p>	<p>Major errors <u> II </u> (*verb forms/tenses, S-V agreement, pronoun agreement/ reference, shift in voice, <u>parallelism</u>)</p> <p>Minor errors <u> IIII , IIIII, I, I</u> (*noun plurals, Adjective/adverbs, articles, prepositions, <u>spelling</u>, <u>punctuation</u>, capital letters, abbreviations, Numbers, Italics, <u>hyphen</u>, <u>cmpd words</u>)</p>
<p>Totals Maximum score 25</p> <p>Overall score: <u> 19 </u></p>	<p>Total Score: <u> 19 </u> Placement: EN 101</p> <p>This essay <u>does not</u> meet placement scoring standard for Nursing applicants.</p>