

Sample EN001/002, EL104 Exam Topics

The following are topics that have appeared on past EN001/002 competency exams. Use them for your mapping, writing, and studying pleasure.

1. Identify someone you consider an effective leader and discuss the characteristics and actions that make that leader effective.
 2. Choose a person who is significant to you and explain the reasons he or she is significant.
 3. Describe a teacher from your high school or college. Include details that show what this person did and/or said that made him or her an exceptional teacher.
 4. Write about several characters from film, television, or literature who are positive role models. Tell what these characters do and say to present this positive image. Give specific incidents from the works to support your ideas.
 5. We learn from watching others. Discuss the reasons for the success or failure of a manager for whom you have worked in a business setting.
 6. Attending college can cause profound changes in a person's life. Contrast your life as a student to the life of someone who does not attend college.
 7. Identify some activity at which you are successful and explain how you achieved that success.
 8. Write about a place you have visited or lived. Show the reasons this place is memorable by writing about the activities you did there.
 9. Write about your favorite restaurant. Include details about the eatery that make it your favorite, such as the food, service and atmosphere.
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10. Many students are affected by a fictional character from a novel, short story, play, movie, or television show. Select one fictional character, describe the character, and explain how this character has affected you.
 11. Many people enjoy a particular benefit from some form of recreation, such as singing, playing a game, such as Scrabble or monopoly, or belonging to a club. If you do, describe the activity and give examples of times you have experienced that benefit.
 12. Describe the night of the week you like best. Show the activities you do on that night to make it special. Include specific details and/or examples to support your points.
 13. Write about your most memorable birthday or other special occasion, such as high school graduation. Describe what made this occasion special, including the people and events.
 14. Write about an important decision you made recently, explaining the reasons why you made this decision.
 15. Many people enjoy a particular benefit from some form of exercise, such as jogging, swimming, or aerobic dancing. If you do, describe this activity and then give examples of times you have experienced that benefit.

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16. Describe several ways in which you are similar to or different from one of the following: your brother, sister, mother, or father. Make sure you include specific evidence to show similarities or differences.
 17. Describe several ways your views and your parents' views differ in one to three of the following areas: sex education, marriage/living together, abortion, money, work/career, recreation, music, politics.
 18. Contrast your study methods in high school with your study methods in College. Make sure YOU include specific evidence to show differences.
 19. Compare or contrast the characteristics of someone you know with the stereotype of that person. For example, if you know a male or female athlete, compare him or her to the stereotype of that type of person. Or if you know a police officer, compare him or her to stereotypical descriptions of police officers.
 20. Many people are affected by the seasons, some positively and others negatively. Contrast your favorite season to your best favorite Season.
 21. Describe several ways in which your college classes are. similar to or different from your high school classes. Make sure you include specific evidence to show similarities or differences.
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22. Self-discipline is critically important to a student's success. Point out ways in which a student's life can change as a result of self-discipline.
 23. College students often face distractions that can cause them to spend too little time on their studies. Write a paper giving examples of such distractions.
 24. Describe the things you would change about your former high school. Be specific by naming your school and its location. Explain the reasons it could use changes.
 25. If you could change several things at Montgomery College, what would they be? Use examples from your own experience at MC to support your points.
 26. You have been appointed the principal of your former high school. You have absolute power to improve the educational situation. Discuss changes you would make. For example, what changes in rules would you make? What new programs would you institute? What programs would you eliminate? How would you relate to your teachers? How would you use school assemblies, extracurricular activities, or sports?