

Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development
Section VI Opinion Question 1

40

Opinion
Topic Development
Code 40

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

In my own personal opinion having extracurricular involvement is not important for secondary student. But is a good idea to be involved in if its right for that particular student.

One reason why I think extracurricular activities aren't necessary is because not all students are able to participate in these types of activities without their personal schooling is effected. This could happen either due to uncomplete homework, missed attendance because of functions and so forth.

My second reason is because majority of teenagers in this day and age aren't interested in taking up a hobbie or a sport, unless they have previously done so in past years. Most teens want to hang out with friends, and/or play video games usually.

In a different view sometimes it isn't bad for students to interact in extracurricular activities because it is healthy and active, and again it all just depends on the type of student.

So Overall I feel that extracurricular

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activity involvement is unnecessary but useful
for health reasons.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details (*In my own personal opinion having extracurricular involvement is not important for secondary student. But is a good idea to be involved in if its right for that particular student*). There are sufficient supporting details; however, only some are specific (*uncomplete homework, missed attendance*).

The organization is mechanical (*One reason, My second reason*). There is an introduction, body and conclusion.

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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Opinion
Topic Development
Code 60

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities in high school have greater advantages than those who do not, which is why participation in these activities is significant. Extracurricular activities such as sports, photography groups or book clubs are few of the many groups that can enhance a student's academic performance. It is important that a high school student joins an extracurricular activity to develop co-operation skills, organizational skills and to increase chances of receiving academic rewards.

Students who take part in book clubs or sports develop skills that allow them to work well with others. They learn skills that may not be taught at home or in the classroom. For instance a person who plays volleyball is able to negotiate, co-operate, compromise, share and socialize more confidently than one who is not used to stepping outside of their comfort zone. Extracurricular activities provide a way for young teens to get to know each other and improve their socializing skills to ultimately enhance their secondary school experience.

Not only do teens develop skills in interaction but they also improve their organizational skills. A student who is able to finish their homework and make practice on time is a student who can prioritize, set goals and manage their time. These qualities are highly beneficial to the student's future when it comes to finding their career path which is why mastering these attributes in high school is important. Extracurricular activities teach a student how to excel in that particular activity and how to

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use those skills in the classroom. If these tasks are practised well they will become good habits that can increase their chances of acceptance into a college or university of their choice.

Students who have experience in extracurricular activities have more options when it comes down to applying for college, university and for scholarships. For example a student who gets good grades and is able to juggle a sport or club is more likely to possess the qualities needed in obtaining a scholarship that specializes in that sport or club in comparison to a student who did not have the same experience. Ultimately universities want to see that you put effort into maintaining good grades but also that you went the extra mile to do your best.

As a result students who enhance their skills in communication and organization are more likely to receive a greater benefit such as getting accepted into an elite university or saving money by receiving a scholarship. Even after university and college the skills achieved from joining these activities will benefit in the long run because after all the more effort and hard work you put into something, the greater the award.

Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (*expand their social groups, develop positive personality traits*).

Reasons are developed with examples and explanations (*more understanding occurs, teamwork, determination, optimism*).

The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The third body paragraph is linked to the first body paragraph (*Because teenagers use cellphones to contact friends in the first place*).

The conclusion returns to the question of need emphasized in the introduction and threaded throughout the response.