

LOLA'S 1.6 PERSONAL RESPONSE ESSAY PLAN

Essay Question: Write your chosen essential question from the list on page 36.

What is your opinion of the idea that there is sometimes a conflict between personal desires and the pressure to conform?

Thesis Statement

Write a one- or two-sentence thesis statement for your essay. It should be a sentence that answers the essential question and takes a clear position on the question. Include a “because” or “but” statement.

While conforming to the expectations of family and society is easier, teenagers who pursue their own interests find happiness in life.

Supporting Examples

Focus on one or more stories (from your own life, the life of someone you know, or someone you’ve heard of in the media) or focus on several personal anecdotes (no more than three). **Describe** in point form which personal stories or anecdotes you plan to discuss in your body paragraphs to support your thesis.

I’m going to focus on one story for the body of my essay. I am a first-generation Canadian, meaning I was born in Canada, but my parents were not. They were born in China. They had to work very hard to make a new life in Canada, and they want me to have the same (or greater) success. They believe the only way I can do this is if I go to university and study something “practical” that will help me get a high-paying job. I want to focus on a career that will make me happy, and music is what makes me happy.



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Organizational Plan

Organizational Plan: Introduction

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

This paragraph must grab the reader's attention and show the reader a preview of what's to come. Your thesis should appear here as well.

Hook:

For your hook, **provide** and **briefly develop one of the following**: a quotation, an anecdote (a very short story), a provocative question, a series of strong statements, a statistic, or anything to catch your readers' interest in the topic.

I'm going to use a quote from the poem "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost to get the audience's attention and open up the topic of daring to take the less common path. "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I / I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference."

Background Information:

Prepare your audience for the body paragraphs by mentioning any stories that you'll be discussing in the body (whether these are true stories, hypothetical stories, personal stories, stories from the media, etc.). Don't give much detail here.

When you write your introductory paragraph, tie your reference to the story, the hook, and the thesis together smoothly.

I'm going to tie in the Robert Frost quotation with the idea that sometimes the less common path is the better path, and then I am going to tell a story about how I used to pretend I was an orchestra conductor when I was little and would conduct my stuffed animal orchestra. I'll use this story to kick off the essay and the idea that we have to pursue our passions in order to be happy, no matter what anyone says.

Thesis Statement:

While conforming to the expectations of family and society is easier, teenagers who pursue their own interests find happiness in life.

BODY PARAGRAPH ONE

Topic Sentence:

Write a sentence that tells the readers about information in the first body paragraph and connects in an obvious way to the thesis.

*Even though teenagers may have intense desires to pursue certain interests, they often have to **fight against parents' and society's expectations** to do so.*

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Provide evidence from your personal stories to support your topic sentences. **Briefly describe** which stories you plan to include here to support your topic sentence.

I'm going to talk about my parent's immigration to Canada and their path to success. I'll talk about their expectations for me and also the pressure I feel from others (like my school counsellor or my boyfriend) to make certain choices that conflict with my interests.

Supporting Explanation:

Explain how your evidence above supports the idea expressed in your topic sentence. Show some insight; don't simply state the obvious.

Part of my thesis talks about how it's easier to conform to people's expectations of you than to go out and pursue your own interests, so this first body paragraph is all about that—the expectations from my parents and society and the pressure that makes me feel I should conform.

BODY PARAGRAPH TWO

Topic Sentence:

Write a sentence that tells the readers about information in the second body paragraph and connects in an obvious way to the thesis.

Making the decision to pursue one's passions can be difficult but necessary.

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Provide evidence from your personal stories to support your topic sentences. **Briefly describe** which stories you plan to include here to support your topic sentence.

Here I'm going to talk about the moment I decided to pursue music at university and go into a music career. I'll talk about how hard it was—with my parents, my counsellor, and my boyfriend—and what I had to do to convince them. I'll also talk about why I felt it was so important to make this choice. Lastly, I'll show the motivational video "What's Your Purpose" to help explain why going after my dreams was so important.

Supporting Explanation:

Explain how your evidence above supports the idea expressed in your topic sentence. Show some insight; don't simply state the obvious.

My thesis is all about the importance of teenagers being able to pursue their own passions, but it's also about the pressure to conform, so this paragraph kind of hits on both of those ideas. I'll talk about why going after our dreams is so important AND what I had to overcome to do so.

BODY PARAGRAPH THREE

Topic Sentence:

Write a sentence that tells the readers about information in the third body paragraph and connects in an obvious way to the thesis.

Being able to pursue important interests helps teenagers achieve a happy, fulfilling life.

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Provide evidence from your personal stories to support your topic sentences. **Briefly describe** which stories you plan to include here to support your topic sentence.

Here, I'll talk about the rest of my story. Once I had informed my family, my counsellor, my boyfriend, and the other people in my life about my career plans, I felt a huge sense of relief. I applied to the music program at the University of Calgary, and I enrolled in more music classes for my last semester of high school, rather than the science classes my counsellor had encouraged me to take. I will also show the cartoon titled "Jim Henson: A Puppeteer's Advice," just to show that we as teenagers are in control of our destiny, not anyone else.

Supporting Explanation:

Explain how your evidence above supports the idea expressed in your topic sentence. Show some insight; don't simply state the obvious.

I want to talk here about how it felt to be out in the open about my hopes and plans for the future, and how it felt to actually take steps toward my goal. I'm not going to pretend everything was suddenly perfect. My family and I still had some conflicts, but my struggle was paying off. I felt truly happy about my decision.

CONCLUSION

The goal of this final paragraph is to leave the reader thinking about your essay long after he or she has put it down. Think of it as a lawyer's closing argument—it must remind the jury of the strong evidence in a powerful and interesting way.

Restate the Thesis Statement in New Words:

For teenagers to be able to find happiness in life, they must be allowed to pursue their own interests and not be forced to conform to their family's or society's expectations.

Essay Wrap-Up:

Include either a "So-What?" statement, a summary of key ideas, and/or a call to action. **Describe** in detail what you plan to do. For instance, don't simply write your "So-What?" statement; explain it.






I'm going to mention the Robert Frost poem quotation again (the one in my intro.), and I'm also going to bring back the example of me conducting my stuffed animal orchestra, just to drive home how important my decision was to my future happiness.

Clincher:

This is where you **persuade** your audience that your opinion has value. Say something creative or powerful (like in your hook) to emphasize your message. You might even refer to the hook you used in your introduction.

I'm going to keep this part short, and just say that I hope other teenagers can find the strength to pursue their own dreams, even if people have other plans for them.

1.6 Personal Response Essay PLAN

Value	Ideas and Impressions	Presentation
 Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are <i>insightful</i> and <i>complex</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>precise</i> and <i>detailed</i> support to reinforce ideas through the use of personal stories.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You <i>skillfully</i> develop a unifying effect (organizational structure) through the thesis, topic sentences, and plan for introduction and conclusion.
 Proficient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are <i>thoughtful</i> and <i>clear</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>relevant</i> support to reinforce ideas through the use of personal stories.	<input type="checkbox"/> You <i>capably</i> develop a unifying effect (organizational structure) through the thesis, topic sentences, and plan for introduction and conclusion.
 Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are <i>appropriate</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>straightforward</i> support to reinforce ideas through the use of personal stories.	<input type="checkbox"/> You <i>adequately</i> develop a unifying effect (organizational structure) through the thesis, topic sentences, and plan for introduction and conclusion.
 Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are <i>incomplete</i> or <i>undeveloped</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>vague, limited, or repetitive</i> support that does not reinforce ideas through the use of personal stories.	<input type="checkbox"/> You <i>inadequately</i> develop a unifying effect (organizational structure) through the thesis, topic sentences, and plan for introduction and conclusion.
Resubmission Needed	Your attempt to respond is <i>insufficient</i> . Contact your teacher to discuss suggestions for improvement and resubmission of your work.	
TOTAL: 18/20 = 90%	8/10	10/10
 Assessment	Areas of strength: Your plan is very thorough and clear, Lola! You've made interesting and appropriate selections of multimedia and personal examples to support your thesis. I truly look forward to reading your essay! Might I suggest: While this is just a plan for the essay, more detail in your body paragraph sections would clarify how your examples support your body paragraphs and thesis.	