



Grade 7 Writing

Expository Scoring Guide

March 2016

Grade 7 Writing Expository Prompt

READ the information in the box below.

In the children's book *The Little Engine That Could*, an engine succeeds in pulling a train over a mountain by repeating the words "I think I can." The story is so well known and motivational that it has been used in many songs, films, speeches, and advertisements throughout popular culture.

THINK carefully about the following question.

Is a positive attitude necessary for success?

WRITE an essay explaining whether a positive attitude helps a person be successful.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the controlling idea is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

if you have a positive attitude it does make you be successful, it makes you be successful by helping people like an old lady if she needs help then help her, you can be successful in many ways like helping others.

A positive attitude is like a good attitude if you have a good attitude probably something good will happen to you.

It sort of like good luck but mixed is like a positive attitude, if you're successful to make your dreams come true then you can make it thru all.

One time my dad was driving and he saw a old lady walking by her self caring Groceries at night and my dad gave her a ride to her house and he felt like he did the right choice wich he did now thats a positive attitude

Score Point 1

The controlling idea of this very limited writing performance is that “a positive attitude . . . does make you be successful.” Instead of explaining how a positive attitude leads to success, the writer confuses the idea of having a positive attitude with the idea of helping others. The sentence-to-sentence connections are random as the writer moves from the example of helping “a old lady walking by her self caring Groceries at night” to “if you have a good attitude probably something good will happen to you” to “make your dreams come true.” The writer uses periods only at the ends of paragraphs, demonstrating little command of sentence boundaries, and awkward sentences interfere with the fluency of the writing.

You must always be positive!
It is important to be positive for
you to be successful. You should
always be positive in everything you
do to be successful, in life and every-
-thing e else that you do.
You should never be negative
about anything in life because it
will bring you down in
life.
everyone should always be
positive and everyone will be
successful in anything and every-
-thing you participate in. If you
are always positive in everything
you do, and in life you will
always be successful.

Score Point 1

This vague, repetitious response introduces the controlling idea that “It is important to be positive for you to be successful,” but the writer does not develop the idea with any specificity (everything you do; anything and everything you participate in; in life). Most of the essay is devoted to restating the controlling idea (You should always be positive; You should never be negative; everyone should always be positive; If you are always positive), leading to a weak progression of ideas and resulting in a very limited writing performance.

Giving someone a positive attitude gives a person a whole lot of reason to be successful.

If you give someone a positive attitude helps someone become a better person like if a boy did something wrong and he was caught and won't confess why he didn't just ask him questions but... with a good or positive way and then he will feel a little bit comfortable with you and he just might say a little like because I was mad. or because I did not like him or because I felt like doing it.

Say more nice things try to say it in a way that sounds like we won't punish you kind of way then he is going to feel very comfortable and tell you bit by bit and then he is going to be tired of being guilty and tell you everything that you need to know.

Score Point 1

In this very limited response, the writer provides an extended example of the process for using a positive attitude to coerce someone to confess why he/she did something wrong. A missing controlling idea, along with development that is only vaguely related to explaining whether a positive attitude helps a person be successful, demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository task. In addition, the lack of sentence boundaries impedes the progression of ideas and significantly limits the effectiveness of the essay.

A possitive attitude helps a person because if they get mad they can do bad things they're not suppose to do if its not the right thing to do.

A possitive attitudes helps a person influence thereselves not to do wrong things instead they do the right things.

Possitive attitudes can inspire other people the same because bad attitudes gets them no where. People would appreciate them if they do the right thing instead of the wrong thing.

Someone in life will admire them if they manage to do so. Possitive attitudes can get them somewhere in life one day.

Humans would really appreciate those who really want to have possitive attitudes they will have those attitudes.

Attitudes helps persons be successful in life one days.

Score Point 1

The controlling idea of this response is unclear because the writer abruptly shifts from idea to idea. At first, it appears that the controlling idea is that “A positive attitude helps a person influence themselves not to do wrong things instead they do the right things.” However, instead of providing support for this idea, the writer introduces several other ideas about positive attitudes (inspire other people; People would appreciate them; can get them somewhere in life one day). The random progression of ideas and lack of sentence-to-sentence connections make the essay difficult to follow. Vague word choice, along with uncontrolled sentences and errors in conventions, sometimes interferes with meaning. Overall, this response demonstrates a very limited writing performance.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's controlling idea is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective controlling idea or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

According to everyone else, that you see, positive thinking always leads to success. Negative thinking will just get you behind. School, sports, academics, all those you need to think positive in order to succeed on accomplishing your goal. Negative thinking equals to negative steps.

Some people remember it as magnets. When you put the two negative sides next to each other, they will not do or succeed anything. But when you put the positives together, they could touch each other and accomplish something. Not even objects can think negative.

In basketball, did you think the 1992 Dream Team thought positive or negative? They clearly thought one-hundred percent positive. No one was, or is, able to beat the three best players that ever played basketball; Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Larry Bird.

Thinking positive is always the road to success. At least believe in yourself when doing something, but never think negative, no matter if what you are trying to succeed at is easy, or hard.

Score Point 2

The writer of this response introduces the controlling idea that “you need to think positive in order to succeed on accomplishing your goal” but provides minimal development for this idea. The first example offers an analogy using magnets, but the comparison lacks a logical connection to the controlling idea. The second example of “the 1992 Dream Team” could be appropriate but is only partially developed; more explanation is needed to demonstrate how positive thinking helped the Dream Team achieve success. In addition, the progression of ideas is not always controlled because the writer moves from school lessons to sports without providing a connection between examples or to the controlling idea. The response represents a basic writing performance.

Positive

In the children's book The Little Engine That Could, an engine succeeds in pulling a train over a mountain by repeating the words "I think I can." The story is so well known that it has been used in advertisement throughout popular culture. Is a positive attitude necessary for success?

When you want to accomplish something there are going to be a few struggles. It is always important to have a good attitude. Having a good attitude will help along the way.

If you were to have a terrible attitude, you would just make things more difficult. Not only that, but you would also lose a lot of your friends. People do not want a friend who always has a terrible attitude.

For example, Me and my friends were playing a game of basketball. My friend, **Rose Marie**, kept losing so she got a bad attitude. When she did that no one wanted to be her friend.

Next time when you feel angry have a positive attitude. It will make things a lot better.

Score Point 2

The controlling idea of this response is that a positive attitude will help when people are facing struggles. Although the overall organizational strategy of the essay is appropriate, the introduction copied from the "READ" section of the prompt does not contribute to the development of the controlling idea. In addition, the writer uses a brief personal anecdote to provide only partially presented details about losing a friendship because of a bad attitude. The sentences are adequately controlled and punctuated correctly, but the writer's word choice is mostly general (you would make things more difficult; a good attitude will help along the way), causing the development to remain superficial in this basic writing performance.

Who ever said undermining your abilities makes you successful? Believing you can achieve something is key to success.

Your mind and beliefs are your boundary. When you lack confidence in yourself, you are setting yourself up for failure. Remember that the doubt clouding your mind is merely a mental, rather than physical, limit.

In the beginning of my orchestra courses, I didn't think I would make it into Chamber, the most advanced orchestra course available at my middle school. Two steady years of practicing diligently on my musical instrument with a positive attitude made my success possible.

Bragging is not part of a positive attitude. Bragging, or boasting, usually appears in people at a moment of overflowing and arrogant confidence. Although bragging may seem positive to the person doing it, boasting is a negative attitude that can hurt the feelings of one who is unable to perform such an activity.

Maintaining a positive attitude throughout a goal is necessary for achievement.

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer attempts to support the controlling idea (Believing you can achieve something is key to success) by including a philosophical observation about how losing confidence “is setting yourself up for failure.” This development is extraneous because it does not contribute to the explanation of how believing in yourself leads to success. In the third paragraph, the brief anecdote about the writer’s success with getting into Chamber Orchestra does provide a superficial explanation of how practicing with a positive attitude led to that success. However, irrelevant information about how “Bragging is not part of a positive attitude” in the fourth paragraph interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay. In addition, the perfunctory conclusion does not contribute substantive development, demonstrating the writer’s limited understanding of the expository writing task.

I say that a positive attitude is fantastic for success for anything you want to achieve in life. You need that positive attitude to motivate you so it will fire you up and just make you say, "I can do it! I can do it!" It will give you that energy in life that will make you succeed!!

If you had a bad attitude, your chances of succeeding are very low and can cause huge problems like stress which will make it even worse. You need that positive attitude to make you feel confident, strong, and unstoppable!

Without a positive attitude, you will never succeed in life but with a positive attitude... you will succeed more than you thought you could.

Score Point 2

In this response the writer's controlling idea is that "a positive attitude is fantastic for success for anything you want to achieve in life" and will "make you say, 'I can do it! I can do it!'" Instead of explaining how a positive attitude leads to success, the writer discusses the consequences of having a negative attitude and the benefits of adopting a positive attitude. The idea that a bad attitude "causes huge problems like stress" is not connected to the controlling idea and cannot be considered as effective development. The next sentence does relate to the controlling idea because it explains that a positive attitude makes you feel "confident, strong, and unstoppable!" Overall, the general word choice does not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay. The writer demonstrates a limited understanding of the expository writing task, reflecting a basic writing performance.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. Most ideas are related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer’s response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

Success does not come easily. The most successful people in the world do not achieve such feats simply because they are lucky. They are triumphant because they have a positive attitude towards their goal to make the process more bearable, to overcome obstacles, and to be motivationally driven.

Optimistic regard is a characteristic that everyone should have. It shows the "bright side" of what seems to be an inconvenience. Even in times of hopelessness, there is still hope in their eyes because they pursue dreams that can be instead of dreams that can't be. A positive attitude introduces an entirely new aspect of the world, where anything is possible to accomplish if you are fueled by determination and purpose. An idealistic view would definitely be a great asset and not to be mentioned, beneficial too.

A positive attitude makes the best of things, helps you through rough times, and to be motivationally driven. This, is how success is accomplished.

Score Point 3

The controlling idea of this response is that “successful people . . . have a positive attitude toward their goal to make the process more bearable, to overcome obstacles, and to be motivationally driven.” The introduction is somewhat formulaic because the writer includes a preview of upcoming development, but the overall response to the prompt is original. To support the controlling idea, the writer offers a philosophical analysis stating that “anything is possible to accomplish if you are fueled by determination and purpose.” Although the progression of ideas is generally logical, more specific development would enhance the thoughtfulness of the piece. Nevertheless, word choice is specific and well chosen, and the writer’s appropriate use of language and conventions contributes to the quality and clarity of this satisfactory essay.

Believing in yourself is the key to life. Keeping a positive attitude is the key to success.

People like when someone has a good attitude even when everything is going wrong. Say you are at a job interview and the person before you has the worst attitude ever and you go in to be interviewed with a positive attitude. Yes, they are most likely to choose you for the job. Maybe you pass by someone who's having a bad day and instead of just walking by them, you give them a simple smile that has just made their day better. No one likes to be around people who are negative all the time.

Another example is if you're an athlete trying out for a sport, your coaches are looking for good attitude and good sportsmanship. Some of the greatest in the world think positive about everything, and that's the main reason for their success.

I too, try my best to have a good attitude especially for any kind of tryouts and I am successful at making "A Team."

The positive people are always the happiest and most successful, so don't be negative, because no one wants to be sad and unsuccessful.

Score Point 3

The controlling idea of this satisfactory writing performance is that "positive people are always the happiest and most successful." The writer creates an appropriate expository tone by including several examples (help someone get a job; make another person's day better; coaches are looking for good attitude) that show how a positive attitude can lead the reader to happiness and success. Each of these examples is developed sufficiently to add some substance to the essay, although more specificity would have added to the overall quality and clarity. The sentence-to-sentence and paragraph-to-paragraph connections are sufficient to show the relationships among ideas. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

My father always told me that "being positive is the key of life," and I agree to that. If you think negative, there is no way you can achieve on whatever you are doing. For me, when I put my mind to something, then I'm going to do it.

When you're negative, you're letting yourself down, you're heading in the wrong direction. When you're positive, you're telling yourself that you can do whatever you're doing, and more. You can do anything if you put your mind into it. If you're negative, you won't end up doing it and you'll become lazy.

My goal in life is to play in the NFL and be a starting running back for the New Orleans Saints, but I can't do that if I'm negative. I'm going to push myself through the negativity and be positive the whole way.

Some people say negative stuff about themselves and it helps them, but for most people they need to be positive to be successful. So don't screw everything up for yourself because you say you can't do something, keep your head up and do great.

Score Point 3

The writer of this response introduces the controlling idea with a reflection about advice from his father "that 'being positive is the key of life.'" Using a philosophical approach to compare the effects of negativity (letting yourself down . . . heading in the wrong direction; you won't end up doing it and you'll become lazy) with the effects of being positive (You can do anything if you put your mind into it), the writer supports the controlling idea with sufficient development. A reference to the writer's personal goal of becoming a starting running back in the NFL provides some thoughtfulness and demonstrates a good understanding of the expository task. Although the response contains some awkward sentences and conventions errors, they do not interfere with the clarity of this satisfactory writing performance.

In times when you need to solve a situation, say, "I think I can." I believe a positive attitude will help you be successful. Staying positive will help you in so many ways.

Positive attitudes will help you stay motivated. If you say, "I can do this," and stay positive, you will eventually get through the problem. If you have a negative attitude and think, "I'll never finish this," then you'll care less about the situation, which could affect you mentally. Staying negative for a long time will more than likely cause you to be depressed. Being depressed will make you believe you're not good enough to do anything. If you stay positive and motivated, you will be able to complete the task.

Having a positive attitude will also help you physically. For example, your New Years resolution was to loose weight. With a positive attitude to your resolution, you will succeed. If you're being negative and saying, "I'm too tired to do this," you won't succeed. If you change your attitude from gloomy to positive, you'll have no problem conquering your resolution. With a positive attitude, you'll loose the weight with no problem.

Having a positive attitude will help you tremendously with a variety of tasks. If you stay positive, you will get through anything. Just have motivation and faith, and you will succeed.

Score Point 3

The controlling idea of this satisfactory writing performance is that “a positive attitude will help you be successful . . . in so many ways.” To support the idea, the writer offers two main points: A positive attitude “will help you stay motivated . . . mentally” and “help you physically.” Using a cause-and-effect organizational strategy, the writer provides specific details and examples that sufficiently develop the ideas. The student is able to maintain this strategy throughout the composition by using effective transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections. The student’s specific word choice (gloomy; conquering; tremendously) and adequately controlled sentences contribute to the effectiveness of this essay.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. All ideas are strongly related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer’s train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

Sometimes I sit down and think to myself, "What's the key to being successful?", and then I remember that it's having a good attitude. For some of you that don't know, having a good attitude about everything helps you go a long way. A bad attitude will get you nowhere. I learned that one day when I was playing soccer with my friends. Now I'm starting to become more successful each day.

It was 7th Period Athletics and we had already picked out teams. We had started with a bad attitude, but ended the game with a good one. Our team was losing and then getting mad at one another, because of childish reasons such as, "You were in my way!" or "Why didn't you make that goal!?!!" and even "Why didn't you pass the ball to me?" Our team was the worst team you could possibly ever see, until we realized that if we had a good attitude we could still win the game. After we had realized that, we slowly started getting better and better. By the time the period was over, we had won the game.

We may have started off at the beginning with a bad attitude, but that's why it's important to learn from your mistakes. Once we learned from ours, we got better at soccer and with our attitudes, because honestly, without a good attitude, you'll get nowhere in life.

Score Point 4

The controlling idea that "having a good attitude . . . helps you go a long way" is supported by an explanation that includes a personal anecdote about playing soccer with friends at school (We had started with a bad attitude, but ended the game with a good one). The writer focuses on one example and provides specific and well-chosen details that add substance to the response. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay. Variety in sentence structure and a consistent command of conventions contribute to the strength of this accomplished writing performance.

In life, a positive attitude is not necessary for success, but can definitely help. A person's attitude can not only affect how they feel, but also how they act. A positive attitude has led to many successes throughout history and will continue to do so in the future.

For example, if people had looked negatively upon a situation, they may have given up and not had the courage to do things such as inventing, exploring, and discovering. Without positive attitudes, we may not have half the things we have today, such as electricity and transportation. Also, people may not have been able to explore space and the ocean, or discover new elements.

This important part of success is even expressed in books such as *The Little Engine That Could* and *The Hunger Games*. In the children's book, *The Little Engine That Could*, an engine uses the power of positive thinking to pull a train over a mountain. The engine does this by repeatedly saying "I think I can, I think I can...". By doing this, the engine boosts its self-confidence and successfully moves the train. Katniss, the main character in *The Hunger Games*, may not have been successful in the *Hunger Games* if she had not had a positive, "Can Do" attitude. Her positive attitude allowed her to not give up, work through the hardships, and prevail.

Even if you haven't read the books, you can still relate to the usefulness of a positive attitude. It doesn't matter if you are a soldier, a doctor, a student, or a teacher. A positive attitude can help by allowing you to persevere and eventually succeed.

In all, a positive attitude is not necessary for success, but it can definitely help. If you look negatively upon yourself for a task, it can lower your self-confidence and cause you to be sad and give up. It most definitely would not have a positive impact. By having a positive attitude about a situation you can be hopeful and persevere.

Score Point 4

Throughout this accomplished writing performance, the controlling idea (A person's attitude can not only affect how they feel, but also how they act) is supported with pertinent examples from the past and from literature. The first example explains that the world is what it is today because of people in the past who refused to give up on "inventing, exploring, and discovering." Next the writer references two books (*The Little Engine That Could* and *The Hunger Games*) to explain how the main characters used a positive attitude to overcome the obstacles they faced. Strong sentence-to-sentence connections clearly show the relationships among these ideas as the writer links the examples to the present (you can be hopeful and persevere). Overall, the writing is thoroughly responsive to the specific demands of the prompt and reflects a keen awareness of the expository task.

One of the most important traits successful people possess is a positive attitude. Having a positive attitude will not only surround you with people who are a positive influence but also put obstacles in your way in a new light. A positive attitude helps make people successful because it determines who they look to for guidance and how they react to problems that they may face.

A large way that a positive attitude makes people successful is that they surround themselves with a positive influence instead of a negative one. Instead of always hanging out with "cool" kids that only care about themselves, they might place themselves with kids whose personal interests fall behind those of their friends'. Making the choice to surround yourself with positive influence is important to how successful you become because choosing the wrong group of friends could lead one away from their dreams toward drugs and alcohol instead of strongly pursuing their goals through love and encouragement. Surrounding yourself with a positive influence is one of the biggest advantages of having a positive attitude.

A positive attitude can also make challenges you face appear in a new light. It can make you not give up on your dream as easily as with a negative attitude. Instead of seeing a problem as time to give up on your goal, a person with a positive attitude would see a problem as a challenge to prepare himself for his future. This is vital to one's success because it is impossible to achieve anything if you give up at the first sign of hardship or pain. A positive attitude is invaluable because it prevents one from giving up easily and makes hard work appear in a different light.

A positive attitude helps make people successful because it determines who they look to for guidance and how they react to problems they may face. The two most important reasons to have a positive attitude are that you surround yourself with positive influence and that you have perseverance through hard times. A positive attitude is essential to success.

Score Point 4

The writer of this philosophical response offers the controlling idea that "A positive attitude helps make people successful because it determines who they look to for guidance and how they react to problems that they may face." Specific and pertinent details support each aspect of the controlling idea (positive influences help people to pursue "their goals through love and encouragement"; a positive attitude helps people approach obstacles with perseverance; a positive attitude helps people see a problem as a challenge to prepare for the future). By sustaining focus on the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude, the writer is able to craft an essay that is unified and coherent. The quality of the essay is strengthened by a consistent command of conventions as well as purposeful and precise word choice.

There will always be goals to accomplish and dreams to achieve. Although you have the choice to be either positive or negative about a situation. My thoughts are if you have to do something, you should be positive while your at it. Positivity helps your self-esteem and focus, while negativity only discourages you. Bringing yourself down will not aid your path to success. We as people need to stay positive to remind ourselves that we can. We can succeed at anything we dream for, if we stay positive.

In fact, David Crockett is a perfect example. This big hearted pioneer had left Tennessee to fight in the Alamo for Texas' independence. Crockett had a smile on his face every single day, staying positive. He knew the soldiers were out numbered and the chance of him going back to Tennessee was unlikely. Although he knew this piece of information, he did not bring others down, but instead stayed motivational. David would bring the worried soldiers spirits up by entertaining them with his fiddle and telling them tall tales. On March 6, 1836 David Crockett passed away while fighting in the Alamo. Even though many thought he failed, this hero had succeed. Texas had become an independent country and later on part of the United States. Maybe if David had been negative he would not have influenced others to stay positive and we would not be here today.

Throughout society, there are multipl jobs such as doctors, teachers, lawyers, managers and more. Every person in Society has an obstacle or two in what they do, but to get past the challenges they have to stay upbeat. Telling yourself negative comment will only hurt you. Human beings have to think that they can achieve something. Without that motivation they can and will start to doubt their actions.

To conclude, you have to always believe in yourself. Negative thoughts are not healthy nor helpful. We can succeed at anything if we just stay motivated. Positivity, now that's the true key to success.

Score Point 4

The writer of this response uses a skillfully crafted organizational structure to support the clear controlling idea that “We can succeed at anything . . . if we stay positive.” The writer demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository task by using specific and pertinent examples, such as the explanation about Davy Crockett’s positive attitude contributing to the success of the war for Texas’s independence. Following this historical example, the writer moves to an example from the present (all people experience obstacles in their jobs), demonstrating a unique view of the world. Purposeful word choice and varied sentence structure contribute to the strength of the essay. Although minor errors in conventions may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. Overall, this accomplished writing performance is coherent and unified.

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