



Task 2: Understanding what you need to write about?

Problems: A very common problem with many candidates is that they just write about the general topic-area of the task without actually answering the question directly.

After you do the exercises below, you will be able to answer Writing Task 2 questions more accurately.

Task 2s are split into two parts...

1) The statement

and

2) The question

Together they make up the task.

Example:

Statement:	More and more students are taking a year off after finishing school to travel or work before they go to university. However, some people don't agree with this.
Question:	What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

What you need to do is to read the statement carefully and underline what you think are the keywords. Keywords in task 2 statements are usually nouns, verbs, modifiers (e.g.: more / less/ a few / some) and negatives (e.g.: not / don't).

Statement:	More and <u>more students</u> are taking <u>a year off</u> after finishing school to <u>travel</u> or <u>work</u> before they go to <u>university</u> . However, <u>some</u> people <u>don't agree</u> with this.
Question:	What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Tip: You should underline around 30% to 40% of the statement. It is very easy to underline about 80% at first because you're not sure exactly what to do and all the words appear to be very important. Don't worry too much if you're underlining over 50% at first because as you practice further, the number of words you underline will decrease as you become more confident.

(Continued)



Try these:

i)

Statement:	Some people believe that governments should look after their citizens' health and education, while others think it is up to individual people to take care of these matters.
Question:	Should health-care and education be free for everyone?

ii)

Statement:	Many millions of dollars are spent each year on space exploration, while on Earth many people can't afford to eat. This money is wasted and should be redirected to more useful projects that help people in need.
Question:	To what extent do you agree with this statement?

iii)

Statement:	The increasing use of the Internet as a means of education is changing people's study skills.
Question:	In what ways is the Internet affecting the way people read, write and access information?

Take a look at the [Answer Key](#) for a suggested answers each of the above.

http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/writing_test_strategies/task_2%3a_understanding_what_you_need_to_write_about?_key.html

For more IELTS strategies visit:

- Listening : http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/listening_test_strategies/listening_test_strategies.html
- Reading : http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/reading_test_strategies/reading_test_strategies.html
- Writing : http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/writing_test_strategies/writing_test_strategies.html
- Speaking : http://www.ielstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/speaking_test_strategies/speaking_test_strategies.html