

# Avoiding writing **pitfalls**



How do you know you're **not addressing the essay question** or have **gone off-topic**?

1. “No action is too small when it comes to changing the world.” Write about how someone’s actions have influenced your life.
2. Describe an event you looked forward to which turned out to be disappointing. Explain why you were excited about it and why it did not live up to your expectations.
3. It is said that social media influencers cannot be trusted. What are your views?
4. Are smartphones useful for work, or are they a distraction?

**Essay topics**

# Think about:

Which is the **acceptable** storyline (for narrative) or argument (for expository)?

Which are the two **problematic** storylines/arguments?

1. **“No action is too small** when it comes to **changing the world.**” Write about how **someone’s actions** have influenced your life.

My Secondary 4 Netball senior took time out of training sessions to coach her juniors and this has inspired me to be more patient and self-giving.

My teacher has a very bubbly and humorous personality, and this has encouraged me to be more cheerful.

My neighbour is always sharing her cooking with my family and I am so grateful to her. My mother encourages me to lend her a helping hand whenever possible.

2. Describe an event you looked forward to which turned out to be disappointing. Explain why you were excited about it and why it did not live up to your expectations.

I had anticipated an exciting Sports Day where I would be competing for the first time. However, it started raining halfway through and we had to cancel the rest of the events.

I had anticipated an exciting Sports Day but due to insufficient manpower and unclear instructions, some of the events had to be cancelled while some participants played foul.

I was looking forward to Prom Night and having a memorable evening, but a friend who had always disliked me made a nasty remark and spoiled my evening.

### 3. It is said that **social media influencers** cannot be trusted. **What are your views?**

Social media influencers cannot be trusted because they like to flaunt their glamorous lives and make people envious.

Social media influencers are not trustworthy because they display a misleading impression about their lives on their accounts.

Social media influencers cannot be trusted because they will do anything to attract followers.

## 4. Are smartphones useful for work, or are they a distraction?

Smartphones are useful as they can help us keep in touch with our friends through social media.

Smartphones are useful for work as they increase our productivity, though may distract us at times.

Smartphones are useful for schoolwork because they enable us to connect with our classmates and teachers efficiently.