

Short Writing Topic Development

Open Response

Poor Answer

Explain why it is important to learn about other cultures. Use specific details to support your answer.

I believe it is important to learn about other cultures because it would give you a better outlook on life, and on the world. Knowing different things that people had to do for themselves or their country helps make who you are, and changes what you do and how you act.

This response **provides a reason** (“it would give you a better outlook on life, and on the world”).

The **explanation of this reason is vague** (“Knowing different things...helps make who you are, and changes what you do and how you act”).

Better Answer

Explain why it is important to learn about other cultures. Use specific details to support your answer.

It is important to learn about other cultures because it creates a sense of understanding to the world around us. If a person saw a girl wearing a hijab, they might think it is strange, unless they had studied Muslim culture, & understood the hijab's purpose.

This **response provides a reason** (“it creates a sense of understanding to the world”) which is **supported by a specific and relevant explanation** (“If a person saw a girl wearing a hijab, they might think it is strange, unless they had studied Muslim culture, & understood the hijab's purpose”).

Strategies for the Short-Writing Task

- Read and **reread the question** carefully.
- Give them what they ask for ! Identify one _____....and give details to support....
- Think of **links** between the topic and your knowledge and personal experiences.
- Answer the question using **specific details and relevant information.**