

SAMPLE #1

In this student sample, the overall response is clear, focused and well developed. These are the qualities of writing sample that all the English instructors at Highland Community College look for in a short sample such as this one.

First, the student directly responds to the question posed in the writing prompt by answering that the message the “media conveys can be either positive or negative; however, they all have a great power over members of society.” This is clear and focused, indicating that the student’s writing will have both purpose and a clear direction.

Next, the student writes a well-developed paragraph that discusses negative message conveyed by the media. Notice that the essay contains specific examples of advertising messages sent to people that portray idealized women as thin and beautiful. The student then discusses the negative impact of these messages.

In addition to the first paragraph about negative messages, the next paragraph focuses on the positive aspect of the media’s power, using President Clinton’s recent State of the Union address as an example. The student finishes the essay with a conclusion that sums up the focus of her essay.

Finally, this student demonstrates good control over punctuation (note the correct and effective use of the semicolon in the introduction), great sentence variety, and accurate spelling. Please remember that good grammar counts in submitting a good writing sample, so write well!

This student would be placed in Eng. 121 Rhetoric and Composition I based on the writing sample.

Today, the media sends out messages to the public that can influence what we feel and think. These messages the media conveys can be either positive or negative; however, they all have a great power over the members of society.

The most common negative message by the media I have seen is the advertising of thin, beautiful celebrities. I believe strongly that pictures of the trendy, slim and beautiful look has negative effects on the general public, especially women. Psychologically, the average person who sees pictures of beautiful, slim people seem more depressed, and they have a tendency to acquire an eating disorder clearly, these messages of slim, beautiful people has negative effects on the public brought on by the media.

The media does not always bring upon negative effects by their messages. One of the positive messages I have encountered has been the advertising of new medicines and technology. During the recent State of the Union address, President Clinton informed the public about new experiments with technology and medicine to help those who are paralyzed.

More commonly, I see advertising for new allergy medicine and even medicine to help pets. These messages are altogether positive and helpful toward society.

With the power of the media, many messages are introduced, positive and negative, which affect the general public. A negative message the media commonly conveys is advertising beautiful celebrities. However the media also conveys positive messages by informing the public about new medicine and technology. The media's power of influencing the public is not all negative.