

Model Essay

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Parents do not understand their children as well as the parents did 50 years ago.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Currently, there is a widespread belief that parents in modern society have a better understanding of their children. From my perspective, however, children in modern society actually gain less understanding from their parents.

In the first place, children in modern society become more difficult to understand than 50 years ago. **That is because** the generation gap becomes huger between parents and children in modern society. **Let me explain.** Children now acquire a lot of information and ideas from various resources, such as mass media and the Internet; however, these ideas cannot be accepted by their parents, who always have a stereotyped mind and are reluctant to take novel concepts. **For example, children may browse the Internet for more useful information when doing their homework. However, such an approach may be regarded as something related to "play" in the eyes of the parents, for they will argue that if any information is needed, children should turn to books rather than the computers: such machines in their eyes are equal to game creators.** In this case, misunderstanding appears and there may follow quarrels, which will impede(妨碍, 阻碍) the mutual understanding of parents and children. **By contrast**, parents in the past were not bothered by such problems since there were no such advanced technological inventions. **Therefore** parents may find it harder to understand their kids in modern society.

Furthermore, heavy workload in modern society may lessen the opportunity for parents to have a better understanding of their kids. **Due to** the quickening pace of modern life, the fierce competition forces people to devote much more time and energy than before to their work. Consequently, parents may spare less time to communicate with their children. **On the contrary**, parents who lived 50 years ago were not so engaged in their work and thus spent more time with their kids. Therefore, it is conceivable(可想到的, 可相信的) that parents in the past understood their children better than parents in modern city. **According to the latest survey conducted by Peking University among the most teenagers in several major cities, parents spend less than 6 hours with**

their kids per week, and most time is spent during the dinner. Those teenager complain that they are try to communicate with their parents and are eager to get some advice from them; however, it is always futile(adj. 徒劳的, 无用的; 不重要的; 没有出息的) **to do so.** Lacking communication between parents and children may worsen the situation about the mutual understanding.

In conclusion, while modern society offers parents more means to get in touch with their children, parents actually have less understanding of their kids than 50 years ago **due to** the enlarged generation gap and busy work.