**2015 Lang Ques 3 Student Sample Essays (Polite Speech) Argument**

**Sample A**

When you enter a room with familar people you feel comfortable. Then you begin to talk and socialize, you want to make sure you are being very polite. You want to be respectful, have a good tone, make eye-contact, look like you enjoy their presence, and be positive. Those are the key things to your communication.

First off you want to be very respectful no matter the situation. It’s big to respect the people in front of you so they will respect you right back. And with that comes a good tone in your voice. You want to make a connection with the other person. Also will lead you to making eye-contact with them, it shows that you care strongly what your talking about and are interested in what they are talking about. You don’t want them to feel like you don’t care at all on what they have to say. Lastly just be positive no matter what in your conversation or speech. When your positive it changes the whole atmosphere in the room and everyone is intuned with what your talking about. From experience it makes you feel so much better inside when you show all these special units you will need and use when giving a polite speech. (210)

**Sample B**

Polite speech will help community. Being polite is something everyone should learn at a young age. By say “How are you?” or “You look nice today.” is some people’s way of just being polite. Being polite is a trait you need to have in life, because it can get you very far. The value of being polite is that it can make someone smile when they are having a bad day. Being polite can make people feel good and will make people like you.

Polite people that live in a community together make the community better. If you are at a store with your family and a person from your work comes up to you and ask you how your day is, that’s them being polite. The co-worker did not have to come up to you at all. They could have just walk by without saying anything. Since they came up to you, you have sparked a conversation which overall makes you happy. If you are at school and see someone having a bad day, just help them or complement them. This will make their day and maybe they will do something nice for someone else that day. Being polite will help your community become closer and more friendly.

While someone in a big city might not see politeness helping their community, they can still be polite to someone, which will make it person happy. Smaller cities see more of a change from politeness than bigger cities do, but you should still be polite.

Being polite can change someones day. It can help change a community for the better. Politeness has a big impact on others and the community. Being polite and showing others you care is a way to change the culture around you. (295)

**Sample C**

Do we ever realize how we talk to people, greet others, and present ourselves to one another? I believe that such polite speech is the value or function to anything possible.

Simple things such as polite speech or what others may know them to be as manners, can get you very far. Just a simple “Hello, how are you?” can give others a picture as to who you are, how you carry yourself as an individual. Yes, we all have heard “Never judge a book by its cover, and looks can be decieving”, but when polite diction is being used, this is where you can tell the elements of a person.

When I was growing up, I was always taught to be polite. My grandma would constantly tell me to use words like “Yes ma’am, no ma’am. Yes sir, no sir” because it will get you along way. It took me a bit of time to get the hang of this concept but I’ve found out that it can in fact take you somewhere far far away. One day I was walking into a business and I had all my pearly whites showing and I greeted everyone with a simple “Hello” and before I left that building that same day, someone, the owner, came up to me and offered me a job. I wasn’t of age yet but he allowed me to volunteer at a Law Firm near me. It is always lgcal and I look at it as a way to success. Having great manners is the best thing or characteristic you may have.

With polite speech comes maturity, responsibility, and the personality part of onesself. This also goes in the category with first impressions. When Dr. King was around, he carried himself with self respect, use polite speech and was appealing to the people giving him more power because he stood up for what he wanted, but not only that was taken upon respect from others because that’s what he gave out to his people. The president during that time respected him and his opinions because he did things peacefully and was taught how to be polite.

Some me think that these simple words can get you a long way but they can. In the television show, Good Times, the grandma was teaching the grandchildren the basics of how to be polite, how to carry yourself, how to present yourself to those because you never know who you are talking to (413)

**Sample D**

Most children growing up are taught words such as “thank you” or “please” simply because it is the adequate thing to say. Phrases such as “nice to meet you” or “How are you?” are the courteous ways to converse. What kind of world would we live in if manners and politeness didn’t exist? I know I feel rude if I don’t say thank you to an individual who takes the initiative to open and hold the door for me. Communicating politeness and manners shows great appreciation for actions. Whether that action is small or large, it is the thought that counts.

We live in a society where politeness and manners are a way of life, they are like second nature to most people. When you leave the check out line at the grocery store the cashier typically says “Have a great day.” Or when you enter a store your greeted with the words, “Hello, welcome in.” Imagine a world where you leave a grocery store without saying thank you to a person who made it possible for you to purchase food and necessities to take back to your home. Imagine attending a work environment where when you meet your co-workers you immediately begin discussing what is to be accomplished without introducing yourself and saying “nice to meet you.” Small phrases such as those I mentioned serve a great purpose even though they just seem like words really they have great value.

As a working citizen, I come across customers whom walk into my work and just take what they came to recieve and leave without making any effort to communicate politeness or any sense of appreciation. Actions like that come off as rude and not so typical. I feel disrespected in those situations because I’ve been raised in an environment where saying “thank you” or “how are you doing” is what’s expected when communicating with family or strangers. I value manners and politeness simply because I believe that is the respectful thing to do. Not only is communicating phrases such as “how are you” is the respectful thing to do but it also opens a window to great conversation.

Everyone has their own beliefs, values, and morals but being polite is one of those things that falls on everyone’s list of respectful ways to being a member of society. Although sometimes phrases such as “thank you” and “nice to meet you” seem like just words to us, they really hold tremendous value. Try going out into the community for a day communicating with others around you without using manners and see how unnatural that will make you feel. You will then come to the realization of the importance of politeness. (450)

**Sample E**

Almost everyone is familiar with impersonal friendly phrases such as, “How are You?”, “Nice to meet you”, and “Let’s get in touch.” Such impersonal phrases are often used in letters and face-to-face conversations in order to ease any tension of unfamiliarity between two people. These phrases have no purpose, since they are often intended as rhetorical questions, and the people asking another person the question usually do so without anticipating an answer. Therefore, while polite phrases are necessary to ease tensions and familiarize oneself in a new situation, they should be used in moderation since they serve no purpose in familiar situations.

Consistent use of polite speech and impersonal phrases only has value to enhance ones relationship in an unfamiliar situation. For example, new students are often greeted with friendly welcomes from classmates when they are exposed to a new school environment. Students use polite phrases to ease the tension of unfamiliarity between themselves and the new student. However, many times the students who employ politeness to the new student do not end up becoming close friends with him/her, which proves how little value this form of communication has. Since polite phrases are only necessary when used in moderation, constant usage of such phrases serves no purpose in situations such as finding new friends in a new school environment.

Polite phrases have no value when used too often, since they send false messages to others. In Richard Wright’s novel, Native Son, Mary and Jan’s polite speech towards Bigger results in confusion over the literal intent of their actions. By including Bigger when during their evening ordeals, Bigger received a mixed message with the literal intent of May and Jan’s questions that they asked out of courtesy. Since Bigger was black, he was not used to interacting with whites, and Mary and Jan’s actions stated out of politeness resulted in a night of confusion. This proves how too much use of politeness in daily life has no value and can be detrimental in certain situations.

Additionally, polite speech is only necessary in moderation to familiarize oneself in a new situation, but such speech has no value once a situation becomes familiar. Prior to the Civil War, both the Northern and Southern Colonies tolerated each other, despite their differences in how their economies were based. However, once both sections of the new nation realized how different their aspects and views on slavery were, no form of polite speech could save both sections of America from fighting and revolting against each other. While the colonies initially attempted to work together, through many compromises, the polite actions eventually became useless since both sides of the new nation had already become familiar with each other’s viewpoints. This proves how polite speech and actions were only initially beneficial and necessary and proved to have no value once the situation became familiar.

Overall, polite speech only plays a minor initial role in a culture or community. Once both sides became familiar with each other, polite speech no longer has value. Therefore, too much polite speech can also be detrimental and has no value since it sends people false messages, which proves how polite speech should only be used in moderation. (533)

**Sample F**

We have all heard the phrase “If you have nothing nice to say, don’t say anything at all.” As humans, we are attracted to “nice” things and “nice” people, and we usually define a person’s “niceness” by the way they speak and carry themselves. We are generally more attracted to people who use polite speech rather than blunt expressions of their ideas. According to an anthropologist, “friendly phrases communicate politeness rather than literal intent”, but these polite phrases are an integral part of society because they represent a culture’s traditions. They also lessen social conflicts and are a useful form of persuasion.

Polite phrases reflect a great deal about a culture’s traditions. In Korean culture, the younger people must bow at a 90º angle when they meet someone who is older and greet them using the polite form of speech instead of the informal speech that one would use with friends. This gesture of politeness stems from the ancient belief that the old are wise, and therefore, must be treated with respect by youngsters. This is an illustration of the heritage and values in the community. Polite speech exists as a way to preserve traditional values, and they vary depending on cultural history.

In addition to being a reflection of heritage, polite speech is also integral in preserving unity and peace within a community. In the book Native Son, bigger Thomas and his friend Gus use impolite and rough speech with each other. As a result, both are offended by the other’s seemingly lack of respect for the other, and the exchange eventually deteriorated into a fistfight in which Bigger threatens to kill Gus. Polite speech serves as a padding between people to prevent conflict. Without the use of polite speech, conflicts like that of Gus and Bigger’s are more likely to occur because people feel offended. For this reason, polite speech is an important part of preserving peace within the community and social unity.

Along with the benefits to the community, polite speech also serve a tool to benefit individuals in their attempts of persuasion. In his speech to Achilles in an attempt to get his son’s body back for a proper burial, Hector’s father utilized polite greetings and respectful speech as a way to praise Achilles. The respectful speech puts Achilles on a pedastle. By making Achilles feel important and flattered, Hector’s father successfully convinced Achilles to return his son’s body. The demonstration of respect that polite phrases show attributes to a successful persuasion and serves to help an individual attain his or her goal.

Although friendly phrases often serve no literal intent, they are still prevelant in society due to the social purpose that they serve. They are a biproduct of the passing down of traditions and they preserve social unity as well as benefit individual needs for persuasion. (472)

**Sample G**

As a Danish-American, I live in the midst of two cultures--my person is a mixture of completely opposite ways of interacting with people. In the American culture I find that asking someone “how are you?” is synonymous to passive acknowledgement. Americans acknowledge everybody with a smile, yet rarely ask for more. Meanwhile, if you ask a Dane “How’s it going?” you’ll get an explanation that spans that person’s entire life story. Polite speech is supposed to be just that: polite. However, in acting out of strict politeness, one also puts restrictions on potential friendships, relationships with people that could last a lifetime. Responding literally will spark interest, create conversation more sustainable than the weather, will give a person fulfillment. Responding truly to polite questions is necessary to build strong and healthy relationships--and so, there is no question that it must be done.

In fact, I have a sister who recently attended a wedding--she conversed with a man who completely omitted small talk. “Good morning, Annemarie”, he said. “How do you feel about the legalization of pot?” Talk about cutting to the chase--barely 8 am and they were already talking about such heavy topics--yet this conversation is the only thing my sister can remember about that wedding. Sure, she danced the night away, celebrated with her friends, etc, but of all the people she met that night she only remembers the one that had meaning to it. Polite chatter dulled everyone’s face but that friendly old mans!

This old man wanted to discuss something meaningful, wanted to make a point. In fact, when was the last time you read an article that started off with “Hope you are doing well today reader, I’ll make my point after two paragraphs of pointless jabber”? In writing, we are encouraged to be concise and precise. Why should it be any different with speech? Even in chick flicks such as Hitch, Will Smith gets to the point quickly, and asks out Sarah. In every movie we’ve seen--Forrest Gump, Big Fish, even Elf--people are quick to establish relationships. Forrest doesn’t spend several scenes asking Jenny about the weather, and Buddy the Elf dives right into conversation about how happy he is, and the five food groups he intends to eat. Modern culture has made people so careful to circumnavigate true emotion and experience, unless one has known that person since they were 2 years old. The ice must be broken somehow between people, so why not start with polite conversation? When did emotions become so taboo that we’re to cover them up with an “I’m good” and move on with our lives? Why should we hide what makes us human?

Looking back, between my two cultures … I’m glad I have the two to compare. I mean, I get so much out of the Danish culture because I … wait. I think it’s getting too personal here.

Anyway I hope you have a great day! (496)

**Sample H**

Manners are an element of personality that is instilled at an early age and hopefully retained throughout one’s entire life. Saying “please” and “thank you” or holding the door open for someone automatically evokes thoughts of respect; many people associate actions and speech such as those to be a mark of good upbringing and positive character, regardless of what the person is actually like. Though children are taught to say things like “how are you?” and “nice to meet you” around the same time they learn manners, the applications and results of these phrases are not the same as those stated above. Because such platitudes have become so commonplace and practically clichéd, they have lost their polite connotations and instead have become a social ritual that provides little to no information about the conversational partner.

A typical conversation starts with a greeting, a “hello” or “hey, you!”, followed most often by a friendly “how are you?” What happens next in most cases demonstrates why these phrases have been rendered obsolete: the answer to that question is generally some version of “good. How are you?” A one-word answer does not add anything to the conversation and is most likely a partial truth anyway. The second question is also typically answered with “good” or “fine” and then the conversation may truly begin. It is less a question of genuine concern for someone’s well being and more of a custom everyone in society follows. It is considered impolite to talk about what one really might be feeling, especially if how one is doing involves a lengthy discussion. This double-standard means that a conversation must wait until a useless series of questions are exchanged to begin. Frankly, even if one person cares for the other very deeply, he or she still doesn’t want to necessarily hear every little detail about the other’s day and what struggles were faced. The “how are you?” exchange is unecessary because the question cannot often be truly answered without violating another unspoken tenant of social interaction.

Being polite to another is a different concept than polite speech. Acting kind to a fellow person is a fundamental aspect of being a good one yourself. Phrases like the ones the anthropologist studied are not so much a true indication of politeness as they are an indoctrinated and automatic response when interacting with other members of society. Online, on sites such as tumblr or Twitter, imagine how ridiculous it would seem if every tweet conversation had to begin with “how are you.” By expediting the process, social interaction becomes smoother and less dull. Eliminate the platitudes but keep the respectful nature many people grow up with and time and energy will not be wasted.

Polite speech in a culture or community was once considered a result of good upbringing and an element of a respectable person; while in some arenas this is still the case, polite mannerisms reflect such characteristics much more powerfully. Therefore, while some aspects of polite speech, like greetings and goodbyes, should still be employed, mundane and unnecessary questions like “how are you” should be discarded as archaic and obsolete thanks to the automatic reflex of replying with an empty answer and the same question, only to recieve the same vapid response. Without intent, polite speech is just tedious and should be abandoned in pursuit of more advantageous actions. (560)

**Sample I**

Expressions connoted as polite are blase platitudes of our society that are rarely corroborated by a real fascination with “how you are” or a desire to “hang out sometime.” Such tidbits of conversational plesantries do little, if anything, to build strong relationships, or even ephemeral ones. Instead, they hamper communication and distract from why you’re talking to someone. Because plesantries are not rooted in useful conversation, they should be done away with unless one is actually interested in the responses, since polite speech yields unwanted consequences that evince themselves only after you say, “Have a nice day!”

I am an active delegate in Model UN, attending multiple conferences a year where I meet 200-300 new kids each time. A major part of being successful is getting people to work with me, and I have made it a point to only make conversation that I want to know. I’ll ask, as my first interaction with someone, “Where’d you fly in from?” instead of, “Hey, how’s it going?” because the former lets me know if they’re from a strong competing school while the best the latter can do is tell me that they had a crappy Chinese meal for lunch. I often end up leading groups of around 60-80 delegates this way, and my favorite thing is when the kids I work with tell me I “kept it real,” unlike the obsequious delegates who throw every trick in the book of plesantries to start a conversation, to no avail. Formalities are in no way, shape, or form necessary to form productive bonds, even when these bonds just last a weekend.

“Polite” speech also forces those who don’t like each other to act like they do when they meet in public, which engenders caustic gossip once the exchange is over. Paragons of this type of detrimental effect of polite speech are most obvious for me between high school girls, and my mom’s circle of friends. In both instances, individuals catch up or talk using strictly very polite language, because they’re “expected” to be kind. However, once backs are turned, gossip wars ensue, causing even deeper-seated hatred and antagonism that is masked by ludicrously ‘loving’ conversations that sound a little like this:

1: “Oh I missed you so much!”

2: “Yeah we should totally hang out sometime!!”

1: “For sure, I’ll text you later!”

Neither person likes the other, and every word in that conversation drips with falsehoods. There will be no call, no text, and no hangout, and everyone knows that, courtesy of the grapevine. The expectation American society places on people to always be kind to one another acts as a barrier to forthright conversation between individuals that could help the two actually become friends.

Don’t just take it from me: the abandonment of fake polite speech has not proved catastrophic, even in the upper echelons of corporate America. Steve Jobs was known largely as very upfront, brusque, and blunt. This did lead to him being kicked out of Apple at one point, probably due to his striking a harsh chord with his board at the time. Yet his ability to present his ideas concisely, without useless fillers, coupled with his innovative genius brought him back to the company, stronger than ever, without having changed his ways. He’s now regarded as the guru of technology in the late 20th century, a mark achieved without once saying, “Nice to meet you.”

In every facet of the beautiful diamond that is life, we see reflected in personal, educational, and professional circles that polite speech impedes effective communication. When not forced to exchange pleasantries, the best can shine to their fullest potential, and meaningful bonds can be formed with others. We’ve only got so much air--don’t waste it asking your friend who you see every day how it’s going. (635)

Sample A 1

Sample B 2

Sample C 3

Sample D 4

Sample E 5

Sample F 6

Sample G 7

Sample H 8

Sample I 9