

Exercise 1: Model Essay

“The Friendship Bond”

We need to have good friendships in our lives to be happy. We spend a lot of our free time with the friends that we have, and we often want to make new friends. Having friends is like having a second family. In the article “The Friendship Bond,” Mary Brown Parlee writes that the two most important elements in a successful friendship are trust and acceptance. Parlee tells us that according to social psychologists, trust is important because it allows people to be honest and to share secrets with one another. By doing this, two friends can develop a deeper relationship. In addition, she notes that most friendships end when one person feels betrayed by the other person. Although I agree with the author that trust and acceptance are crucial to a friendship, I also think that friends must have common interests in order to have a good relationship.

Parlee describes a survey from *Psychology Today* that showed that people want their friends to accept them, to understand them, and to be honest with them. I agree with this part of the survey. When my parents were going through a divorce and fighting all the time, I relied on my friends to support me and give me advice. Because they understood me and my problems, I knew that I could be honest with them and talk to them about personal problems. I probably would not be able to discuss these problems with my family or with my teachers.

However, I think there is something important about friendship that Parlee doesn't discuss. Although Parlee states that “both members in a friendship must be open with and trust one another for their relationship to become deeper,” I believe that similar interests are also needed for a good friendship. For example, in my high school I observed that many of the guys used to get together after school and go to the park and play basketball for a couple of hours or play video games at each others' homes. These games are opportunities for the guys to participate in activities that they all enjoy, which is also a way for them to deepen their friendship.

In my Social Studies class in school I also learned that Americans who live in large cities are so busy with jobs and other responsibilities that the only way for them to make friends is by finding other people who have similar hobbies. That is why there are also many opportunities for people in the cities to join various clubs and societies where they can share these interests. There is a popular website called Meetup where group meetings are arranged, and people can participate in different clubs like book clubs, food clubs, and language clubs. There are even clubs where men smoke cigars together. Once people meet

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in these clubs, they can develop a group of friends who share their interests, even though they still live in large cities.

In conclusion, I think that it is necessary for friends to have similar activities that they can share. In large cities where everyone is always busy, it is even more important to find someone who likes similar things as you do, or you may not be able to make friends at all. Just like a family, having a good relationship with your friends is important to be happy in life.