

Group Writing

1. Groups: plan and write a full letter

Time: finish by 11:45 or earlier

Tomorrow: I will grade the letters

Send letters to: alain@set-english.com

In each group there must be 'secretary', who will type & send the letter to me. You can CC in all member of the group if you want.

WRITING SUB-TEST: NURSING
TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES
WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

You are a nurse at a boarding school. Jake Peterson is a male student at your school and has come to you complaining of hair loss and associated depression.

PATIENT DETAILS:

Name: Jake Peterson
DOB: 17.03.2001 (18 y.o.)
Address: School: Holly House School, Brenkridge

Social background:

Student at boarding school for past 8 yrs
 Parents work & live abroad
 Father (male-pattern baldness – onset in 50s)
 Mother (depression – onset in 40s)
 Non-smoker; 20 units alcohol/wk
 Karate black belt; champion swimmer

Presenting complaint:

Alopecia – hair loss from 13 y.o.; intermittent cycles (loss and regrowth); aetiology not confirmed – various possibilities
 ?Depression

TREATMENT SUMMARY:

Mar 2014 School clinic – presented with hair loss in patches; anxiety
 ?onset – school bullying incident, Pt said 'not a major thing'
 Referral to trichology specialist

May 2014 Trichologist: no aetiology established; possibly exacerbated by stress
 Prescribed steroid cream (betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% cream 1-2x/day for 3mths)
 Personality changes, aggression + sleep loss
 Medication discontinued

2014 - 2018 No further hair loss; intermittent hair regrowth

Dec 2018 Return of anxiety and pronounced hair loss
 General health check – ↓6kg over last 2mths
 Recommended to see Dr re hair loss, anxiety, weight loss. Student reluctant, asked about natural remedies, e.g. homeopathy. Discussion re efficacy, student still keen to try

Feb 2019 No results + cost implications of homeopathic treatment (kalium carbonicum and silicea) → student ↑distress and low mood
 Problems forming/maintaining peer relationships
 Affecting sports participation

Mar 2019 Referred to school counsellor – did not attend

May 2019 Check-up: ↑ alcohol consumption, min 28 units/wk

June - July 2019 Exam time – extreme anxiety (necessary to arrange separate exam room) – ↑ hair loss

30 Aug 2019 Student concerned about transition to university shortly and independent living
 Letter to university medical practice:
 • monitor
 • organise special exam arrangements

Writing Task:

Using the information given in the case notes, write a letter to Mrs Kullan, a university practice nurse. In your letter, briefly outline Jake Peterson's history and your concerns. Address your letter to Monica Kullan, Senior Nurse Practitioner, University of Marchbank Health Centre, Hillsdunne Rd, Marchbank.

In your answer:

- Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences
- Do **not** use note form
- Use letter format

The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.