SSB PPDT PICTURE PERCEPTION & DISCUSSION TEST

Picture Analysis • Sample Story • Officer Like Qualities • Student Practice Guide



SEO STUDY RESOURCE | PPDT STORY WRITING FOR SSB ASPIRANTS

Learn picture observation, situation interpretation, realistic story development, leadership, initiative, communication and decision-making for the SSB Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PPDT).

1. UNDERSTANDING THE PICTURE

The image appears to show two people interacting across an office desk. One person is seated behind the desk, while another person is seated or leaning forward on the opposite side. The setting suggests a formal conversation, consultation or meeting. The exact purpose of the meeting is not certain from the picture alone.

POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION

A reasonable interpretation is that a student has approached a college principal or faculty coordinator to discuss a useful activity for students. The authority figure is listening to the proposal and considering the next steps. Other interpretations are also possible if they remain connected to the visible scene.

2. SAMPLE PPDT STORY

TITLE: A STUDENT TAKES INITIATIVE

Aarav, a 20-year-old college student and member of the student council, noticed that many students in his college were unsure about career options and competitive examinations. He decided to organise a career-awareness session with guidance from experienced professionals. He prepared a short proposal covering the objective, schedule, venue and expected participation. Aarav met the college principal and explained how the session could help students make informed academic and career choices. The principal appreciated the initiative and asked him to prepare a practical plan. Aarav discussed the arrangements with faculty members, contacted suitable speakers through the college, and formed a small student volunteer team. The session was conducted successfully, and students received useful guidance. Aarav learned the value of planning, communication and teamwork while contributing positively to his college.

WHY THIS STORY FITS THE PICTURE

The central visual clue is a formal face-to-face interaction across a desk. The story uses that setting as a meeting between a student and a college authority. It gives both people a believable role and develops the scene into a constructive outcome without adding dramatic or unsupported events.

3. STORY STRUCTURE: FIVE STEPS

STEP 1 — CHARACTER

Choose a main character whose age, role and background suit the scene. For example: a college student, trainee, employee or community volunteer.

STEP 2 — SITUATION

Explain why the main character is meeting the other person. Keep the opening short and connected to the office or consultation setting.

STEP 3 — OBJECTIVE OR PROBLEM

Identify one clear purpose: seeking guidance, presenting a proposal, reporting an issue or requesting approval for a constructive activity.

STEP 4 — ACTION

Show preparation, clear communication, listening, planning, coordination and responsible follow-through. The main character should take practical steps.

STEP 5 — RESULT

Conclude with a realistic outcome, such as approval to proceed, a clear action plan, useful guidance or a successfully organised activity.

4. OFFICER LIKE QUALITIES (OLQs) DEMONSTRATED

Effective Intelligence

Understands a need among students and proposes a suitable response.

Reasoning Ability

Explains why a career-awareness session would be useful.

Organising Ability

Prepares a proposal, schedule and volunteer plan.

Power of Expression

Communicates the idea clearly and respectfully.

Initiative

Approaches the principal with a constructive proposal.

Self-Confidence

Presents the plan calmly and answers questions.

Cooperation

Works with faculty members and student volunteers.

Sense of Responsibility

Follows through on the arrangements.

Leadership

Brings people together to achieve a shared objective.

Social Adaptability

Listens to guidance and works with people of different roles.

5. HOW STUDENTS SHOULD ANALYSE THIS PICTURE

OBSERVE THE VISIBLE CLUES

- Two people are facing each other.
- A desk separates them.
- One person appears to be in an official or professional setting.
- The scene suggests a conversation, consultation or discussion.

BUILD A LOGICAL CONTEXT

Ask yourself: Who are the people? Why are they meeting? What is the purpose of the conversation? What practical action can follow from it? Do not treat guesses as facts; use them as a starting point for a coherent story.

KEEP THE STORY BALANCED

The main character should show initiative, but the other person should also have a natural role. A good story is not about dominating others; it is about communicating, listening and moving towards a useful result.

6. COMMON PPDT MISTAKES TO AVOID

AVOID THESE MISTAKES

• Writing a story unrelated to the visible scene.
• Assuming the exact identity or profession of a person without enough clues.
• Adding unnecessary conflict or dramatic incidents.
• Making the main character unrealistically powerful.
• Giving no meaningful action to the main character.
• Ending with an outcome that does not follow from the actions.

BETTER APPROACH

• Observe first and interpret carefully.
• Select one clear and believable situation.
• Give the main character a constructive objective.
• Show planning, communication and teamwork.
• End with a practical and positive result.

7. PRACTICE EXERCISE FOR STUDENTS

OBSERVE AND ANSWER

1. How many people are clearly visible?
2. What kind of setting does the picture suggest?
3. What could be the purpose of their conversation?
4. Who could be the main character?
5. What objective could the main character have?
6. What action could lead to a realistic positive result?

SUGGESTED PRACTICE ROUTINE

Observation: 30 seconds
Story writing: 4 minutes
Narration: Practise a clear and concise narration of about one minute
Discussion: Listen carefully, contribute relevant ideas and remain respectful.

SELF-CHECK

■ Is my story connected to the picture?
■ Have I identified a believable main character?
■ Is the purpose of the meeting clear?
■ Does the main character take practical initiative?
■ Is the outcome realistic?

8. NARRATION AND GROUP DISCUSSION TIPS

DURING NARRATION

Speak clearly, maintain a steady pace and organise your narration in a logical sequence: character, situation, objective, action and result. Avoid unnecessary details and do not rush.

DURING GROUP DISCUSSION

Listen to other candidates, respect different interpretations and contribute relevant points. Avoid shouting, interrupting or trying to dominate the group. Help the discussion move towards a coherent common story.

WHAT ASSESSORS EXPECT TO SEE

Your overall performance should reflect clarity of thought, practical reasoning, confidence, cooperation and the ability to express ideas. Do not try to display qualities artificially; let them emerge naturally through your actions and communication.

9. QUICK REVISION: THE PPDT FORMULA

OBSERVE → INTERPRET → PLAN → COMMUNICATE → ACT → RESULT

Observe: Identify visible clues.
Interpret: Choose a logical context.
Plan: Set a clear objective.
Communicate: Explain the idea and listen to others.
Act: Take practical steps with cooperation.
Result: End with a believable outcome.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR SSB ASPIRANTS

There is no single fixed story for a picture. This sample is a learning model, not a script to memorise. Develop your own story from the visible clues, keep it realistic and express it confidently. Follow the instructions and timings given by the SSB assessors.

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