GWT Practice Topic #1

Back to the Good Old Days

People often talk about how things were better back in the “good old days.” Grandparents sometimes think that people were more polite in the past, or more respectful of elders. Others might think that houses were built better, that cars had more style, or products were higher quality. Some people think that food tasted better, that life was simpler, and that people had better values.

In a well-organized essay, answer the following question:

Were things really better in the “good old days”? Choose one or more aspects of human life that some people think was better in the past. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of how things were done in the past versus the present.

Support your ideas with examples from your own experience, from books you have read, movies you have seen, or other sources.

Note: Your essay will be more focused if you choose one specific area of everyday life. For example, if you chose “communications,” you could compare letter writing with text messaging on a cell phone. A rock musician might talk about the ways in which “vintage” equipment is superior to current models. Similarly, you could choose fashion, transportation, education, etiquette, music, etc.