

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most of the papers you read. If it seems inappropriate for a specific paper, ask your Table Leader for assistance. Always show your Table Leader books that seem to have no response or that contain responses that seem unrelated to the question. Do not assign a score of 0 or – without this consultation.

Your score should reflect your judgment of the paper's quality as a whole. Remember that students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the paper, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the paper as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All papers, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into your holistic evaluation of a paper's overall quality. In no case should you score a paper with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics higher than a 2.

9 Papers earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for 8 papers and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or particularly impressive in their control of language.

8 Effective

Papers earning a score of 8 **effectively** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing, and the argument is especially coherent and well developed. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

7 Papers earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 papers but provide a more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

6 Adequate

Papers earning a score of 6 **adequately** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient, and the argument is coherent and adequately developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 Papers earning a score of 5 examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence or explanations used may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Papers earning a score of 4 **inadequately** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or less convincing. The argument may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may be less consistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

3 Papers earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in examining the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The papers may show less maturity in control of writing.

2 Little Success

Papers earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in examining the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. These papers may misunderstand the prompt, or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.

1 Papers earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, or weak in their control of language, or especially lacking in coherence and development.

- 0 Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.
- Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.