

I'm not a robot



[illegible]

become more and more frequent. Floating duck syndrome seems to work hard but is furiously studying beneath the surface like how a duck purposely kicks to stay afloat). All of our competitors appear to hope you fail but in the end what do you and your competitors gain? Getting one extra point on the test? Does that self-satisfaction compensate for the tremendous amounts of acquired stress? This new type of competition is overrated it serves nothing except a never-ending source of anxiety and seeks to weaken friendships and solidarity as a whole in the school setting. [3] A similar idea of competition can be applied to business. On the most fundamental level, competition serves to be a beneficial regulator of prices and business models for both the business themselves and consumers. However, as businesses grew increasingly greedy and desperate, companies resorted to immoral tactics that only hurt their reputations and consumers as a whole. Whether it be McDonalds coupons that force you to buy more food or tech companies like Apple intentionally slowing down your iPhone after 3 years to force you to upgrade to the newest device, consumers suffer and in turn speak down upon these companies. Similar to the evolved form of competition in school, this overrated form causes pain for all parties and has since diverged from the encouraging nature that the principle of competition was founded on. The AP score for this essay was a 4/6, meaning that it captured the main purpose of the essay but there were still substantial parts missing. In this essay, the writer did a good job organizing the sections and making sure that their writing was in order according to the thesis statement. The essay first discusses how competition is harmful in elementary school and then discusses this topic in the context of business. This follows the chronological order of somebodys life and flows nicely. The arguments in this essay are problematic, as they do not provide enough examples of how exactly competition is overrated. The essay discusses the context in which competition is overrated but does not go far enough in explaining how this connects to the prompt. In the first example, school stress is used to explain how competition manifests. This is a good starting point, but it does not talk about why competition is overrated; it simply mentions that competition can be unhealthy. The last sentence of that paragraph is the main point of the argument and should be expanded to discuss how the anxiety of school is overrated later on in life. In the second example, the writer discusses how competition can lead to harmful business practices, but again, this doesnt reflect the reason this would be overrated. Is competition really overrated because Apple and McDonalds force you to buy new products? This example couldve been taken one step farther. Instead of explaining why business structuresuch as monopoliesharm competition, the author should discuss how those particular structures are overrated. Additionally, the examples the writer used lack detail. A stronger essay wouldve provided more in-depth examples. This essay seemed to mention examples only in passing without using them to defend the argument. It should also be noted that the structure of the essay is incomplete. The introduction only has a thesis statement and no additional context. Also, there is no conclusion paragraph that sums up the essay. These missing components result in a 4/6. Now lets go through the prompt for a sample essay from the May 2022 exam. The prompt is as follows: Colin Powell, a four-star general and former United States Secretary of State, wrote in his 1995 autobiography: [W]e do not have the luxury of collecting information indefinitely. At some point, before we can have every possible fact in hand, we have to decide. The key is not to make quick decisions, but to make timely decisions. Write an essay that argues your position on the extent to which Powells claim about making decisions is valid. In your response you should do the following: Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument. Sample Student Essay #2: Colin Powell, who was a four star general and a former United States Secretary of State. He wrote an autobiography and had made a claim about making decisions. In my personal opinion, Powells claim is true to full extent and shows an extremely valuable piece of advice that we do not consider when we make decisions. Powell stated, before we can have every possible fact in hand we have to decide. but to make it a timely decision (1995). With this statement Powell is telling the audience of his autobiography that it does not necessarily matter how many facts you have, and how many things you know. Being able to have access to everything possible takes a great amount of time and we dont always have all of the time in the world. A decision has to be made with what you know, waiting for something else to come in while trying to make a decision whether that other fact is good or bad you already have a good amount of things that you know. Everyones time is valuable, including yours. At the end of the day the decision will have to be made and that is why it should be made in a timely manner. This response was graded for a score of 2/6. Lets break down the score to smaller points that signify where the student fell short. The thesis in this essay is clearly outlined at the end of the first paragraph. The student states their agreement with Powells claim and frames the rest of their essay around this stance. The success in scoring here lies in the clear communication of the thesis and the direction the argument will take. Its important to make the thesis statement concise, specific, and arguable, which the student has successfully done. While the student did attempt to provide evidence to support their thesis, its clear that their explanation lacks specific detail and substance. They referenced Powells statement, but did not delve into how this statement has proven true in specific instances, and did not provide examples that could bring the argument to life. Commentary is an essential part of this sections score. It means explaining the significance of the evidence and connecting it back to the thesis. Unfortunately, the students commentary here is too vague and does not effectively elaborate on how the evidence supports their argument. To improve, the student could use more concrete examples to demonstrate their point and discuss how each piece of evidence supports their thesis. For instance, they could discuss specific moments in Powells career where making a timely decision was more valuable than waiting for all possible facts. This would help illustrate the argument in a more engaging, understandable way. A high score in the sophistication category of the grading rubric is given for demonstrating a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation (purpose, audience, context, etc.), making effective rhetorical choices, or establishing a line of reasoning. Here, the students response lacks complexity and sophistication. Theyve simply agreed with Powells claim and made a few general statements without providing a deeper analysis or effectively considering the rhetorical situation. To increase sophistication, the student could explore possible counterarguments or complexities within Powells claim. They could discuss potential drawbacks of making decisions without all possible facts, or examine situations where timely decisions might not yield the best results. By acknowledging and refuting these potential counterarguments, they could add more depth to their analysis and showcase their understanding of the complexities involved in decision-making. The student could also analyze why Powell, given his background and experiences, might have come to such a conclusion, thus providing more context and showing an understanding of the rhetorical situation. Remember, sophistication in argumentation isnt about using fancy words or complicated sentences. Its about showing that you understand the complexity of the issue at hand and that youre able to make thoughtful, nuanced arguments. Sophistication shows that you can think critically about the topic and make connections that arent immediately obvious. How Will AP Scores Impact My College Chances? Now that youve looked at an example essay and some tips for the argumentative essay, you know how to better prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam. While your AP scores dont usually impact your admissions chances, colleges do care a lot about your course rigor. So, taking as many APs as you can will certainly boost your chances! AP scores can be a way for high-performing students to set themselves apart, particularly when applying to prestigious universities. Through the process of self-reporting scores, you can show your hard work and intelligence to admissions counselors. That said, the main benefit of scoring high on AP exams comes once you land at your dream school, as high scores can allow you to test out of entry-level requirements, often called GE requirements or distribution requirements. This will save you time and money. To understand how your course rigor stacks up, check out CollegeVines free chancing engine. This resource takes your course rigor, test scores, extracurriculars, and more, to determine your chances of getting into over 1600 colleges across the country!

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