

Grade 8 / Conventions

SAMPLE A * SCORE 2

Argumentative Performance Task

Focus Standards

Grade 8: W.8.5; L.8.1; L.8.2



STUDENT RESPONSE

Do we really need pennies? If we get rid of them, it certainly wouldn't anger Jim Flaherty who says "Pennies take up too much space on our dressers at home". It turns out, pennies cost more to make than they are worth. But, some people say a penny saved is a penny earned. There are two different sides to this story . . . what do you think?

Pennys can be very helpful to people, in many diferent ways including helping businesses by slowly gaining more and more money over time. But, if we get rid of the penny and round up or down accordingly, businesses would get even more money overtime. By keeping pennies, people who can afford to throw them into fountains could put them in charity boxes that will eventually add up to help people in need.

If America banned the penny it wouldn't be the end of the world. It would hurt many organizations, and many different things. But, it would also help them, by rounding, everything would be more simple. Businesses and organizations would get more money and overall help the community.

RATIONALE AND EVIDENCE

This response includes some errors in spelling such as "Pennys" and "diferent" as well as errors in sentence formation such as, "But, it would also help them, by rounding, everything would be more simple." However, the proportion of errors to the overall writing is low. Also, the student demonstrates the ability to use punctuation in a sophisticated way that helps create an effective writing style. For example, the student writes, "There are two different sides to this story . . . what do you think?" This sophistication along with the low proportion of errors to writing done well helps the response reach an adequate conventions score of 2 overall.

2-Point Argumentative Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 6–11)

SCORE	2 POINTS	1 POINT	0 POINTS	NS
CONVENTIONS	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient (includes copied text) In a language other than English Off-topic Off-purpose

Holistic Scoring:

- **Variety:** A range of errors includes sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling.
- **Severity:** Basic errors are more heavily weighted than higher-level errors.
- **Density:** The proportion of errors to the amount of writing done well. This includes the ratio of errors to the length of the piece.

Grade 8 / Conventions

SAMPLE B * SCORE 1

Argumentative Performance Task

Focus Standards

Grade 8: W.8.5; L.8.1; L.8.2



STUDENT RESPONSE

The penny something we see every day. Whether we use them, donate them, or discard them into nearby fountains. They're a part of our everyday lives, and it's cost us millions. We've grown so desensitized to the sight of ownerless pennies littering our streets and sidewalks some people don't care enough to pick them up. They've lost so much value with inflation that it's a wonder the government still mints them. "Taxpayers lost \$60.2 million on the production and distribution of pennies in 2011."(source 1)This is money that could have been saved and put toward something more productive. If we can't relies the damage that we are inflicting on ourselves by letting our efforts revolve around a nearly pointless coin, then what else are we loosing.

Time, most people come to relies even at a young age how valuable it is. And even then hours and hours of it have been wasted on the production of the penny. "Those seconds add up to an estimated \$700 million per year nation wide" (source 3) That is 700 million dollars in manual labor we have lost that could have been used much wiser. We have many alternatives

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RATIONALE AND EVIDENCE

This student scores a 1 for Conventions due to inconsistent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, and spelling. For example, the student includes sentence fragments and syntax errors such as, "Whether we use them, donate them, or discard them into nearby fountains," and "Time, most people come to relies even at a young age how valuable it is." The student also misspells several words, such as "loosing," "relies," and "their for." Finally, the student's use of punctuation is inconsistent throughout the response. While the student does demonstrate adequate command of grammar usage and capitalization, the density of errors and the severity of errors make this response a 1 in Conventions.



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such as the rounding system. This system would make carrying around bills and change a much less tedious task for consumers and would save time for small businesses that don't have any to spare. Someone could argue that the penny problem doesn't apply to everyone and **their for** is insignificant but this debate is going on not only in the U.S., but also in other countries like Canada ,that use and are tired of the penny. "They are so useless that many Canadians don't use them at all."(source1)

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STUDENT RESPONSE

I think we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money for example in source #2 it says “estimated \$700 million in wages that businesses pay retail clerks to count pennies” that’s Cleary is a lot of money just for counting pennies!

Another reason I think the government should stop making pennies is were not making a profit when making the pennies we are losing money little by little for example in source #4 it says “just over 1.8 cents to make a penny.” This is telling you by each penny they are making they are losing about 0.8 cents and so on top of the 700 million dollars they are wasting the are also losing a total of 0.8 cents each penny they are making. A lot of people that I know don’t even use pennies they just throw them away.

I think somebody would disagree with me by saying the penny should keep being produced because at some cases you might need the penny in case something is 5.04 dollars but you only have 5.03 dollars that penny could be very useful but I could disagree with that person because even some workers at stores don’t really care if you don’t have that penny. And the government is just losing money out of making pennies that is why I think the penny should stop being made.

RATIONALE AND EVIDENCE

This student demonstrates little command of Conventions in this piece of writing. There are a variety of errors, including basic ones such as the lack of capitalization and incorrect use of punctuation, resulting in many run-on sentences such as “I think we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money for example in source #2 it says ‘estimated \$700 million in wages that businesses pay retail clerks to count pennies’ that’s Cleary is a lot of money just for counting pennies!” and “And the government is just losing money out of making pennies that is why I think the penny should stop being made.” There are also numerous grammatical errors (“we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money,” and “at some cases you might need the penny”), which impact the understanding and quality of the writing. Overall, the low proportion of writing done well to errors earns this response a score point of 0.

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