

Scoring Key: Grade 11

Argumentative Performance Task

Focus Standards

Grade 11: W.11–12.5; L.11–12.1; L.11–12.2

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

SCORE	2 POINTS	1 POINTS	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 EnglishOff-topicOff-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.

SAMPLE NUMBER	SCORE	SCORE JUSTIFICATION
Sample Grade 11 Con A	2	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions.</p> <p>The writer demonstrates an adequate command of syntax, employing parallel structure of items in a series and separating introductory clauses or phrases with the appropriate punctuation. In paragraph 1, the first sentence demonstrates appropriate use of parallelism, and paragraph 2 demonstrates an even more sophisticated understanding of this syntactical pattern: “But studies showed that students who took the course were more likely to budget, more likely to be saving, more likely to pay off credit cards, and less likely to have maxed out credit cards.” By employing the use of “more” several times and then “less” for the last item, the writing demonstrates correct parallelism that has also been arranged to highlight the significance of these items.</p> <p>The writer demonstrates an adequate use of punctuation and capitalization. While not free of punctuation errors—for example, in paragraph 2, the title of the article “Financial Education Leaving Americans Behind” is not placed in quotations—errors are very minimal. Capitalization is consistently used to begin each sentence and to indicate proper nouns, such as “Greg Burns,” “Scott Truelove,” “Chesterton High School.”</p> <p>The writing demonstrates adequate grammar and spelling; in fact, there is only one spelling error, “cirriculum”</p> <p>Overall the writing demonstrates an adequate command of conventions.</p>

SAMPLE NUMBER	SCORE	SCORE JUSTIFICATION
Sample Grade 11 Con B	0	<p>The response demonstrates little command of conventions.</p> <p>The response contains a variety of severe errors in syntax. For example, the first sentence is a run-on and uses incorrect terminal punctuation: “Finantial stability is important and how great would it be if you could get ahead now when your in highschool.” In other places, terminal punctuation is used rather than commas to separate parts of a sentence (e.g., in paragraph 1, “succeed. and”; “they. need”). The writer, by employing terminal punctuation at what should be the midpoint of sentences, creates fragments. In contrast, paragraphs 2 and 4 demonstrate the use of commas instead of terminal punctuation. The comma splices between “ moment, they”; “decisions, this”: “though, If” are good examples of this error. The writer demonstrates mastery of basic sentence formation (subject and predicate) in places, particularly in paragraph 3, but the response lacks examples of more sophisticated sentence structures.</p> <p>The writer often fails to use punctuation when called for by the use of clauses or phrases in a sentence and often misuses commas. Between “important and” (paragraph 1) a comma should be employed to separate the clauses. The same error also occurs in the final sentence of the response by not employing a comma before “so.” Separating dependent clauses that occur at the beginning of sentences also requires a comma. Paragraph 1 lacks a comma after the prepositional phrase, “In highschool” and in paragraph 4 after the conjunctive phrase “If kids are mislead.”</p> <p>The response also contains a variety of spelling and capitalization errors throughout the essay. For example, the word “financial” is misspelled several times and in several different ways (e.g., “Finantial”; “finnantial”). This is a word that is found several times in the sources. The writer also combines “high school” into “highschool,” “in trouble” to “introuble,” and “in place” to “inplace”; uses “dalas” for “Dallas”; and where terminal punctuation is employed, often fails to capitalize the first letter of the sentence, as in beginning paragraph 2 with “now a days.”</p> <p>Overall, the variety, the severity, and the density of the errors categorizes this essay as a 0 on the Conventions Rubric.</p>

SAMPLE NUMBER	SCORE	SCORE JUSTIFICATION
Sample Grade 11 Con C	1	<p>This response demonstrates a partial command of conventions.</p> <p>While the writing is still comprehensible, the response demonstrates errors that are consistent with a partial command of conventions.</p> <p>A syntax error in parallelism occurs in paragraph 1, sentence 3: "Most feel like they know everything and that they are ready for the working, paying, bill lifestyle."</p> <p>The writing demonstrates a density of punctuation and capitalization errors, including a consistent pattern of incorrectly capitalizing common nouns such as "Geometry" and "Math Analysis." The proportion of these errors to the remainder of the response demonstrates a partial command of conventions.</p> <p>Spelling errors such as "feild," "guidence," and "untill," while distracting, are simple errors that are common to first draft writing.</p> <p>Overall, the variety, severity, and density of the errors is moderate, and the best holistic score for this sample is a 1</p>