



Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT)

Fall 2011 Writing Topic and
Annotated Sample Papers



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"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

Fall 2011 GHSWT – Main Administration Writing Topic

Writing Topic 128

Writing Situation

Technology has changed our country a great deal in the last 10 years. Your social studies class is debating the importance of many new inventions in today's world. Decide which invention you think is the most important.

Directions for Writing

Write a letter to convince your classmates that your selection is the most important invention in today's world. Use specific examples and details to explain why the invention you select is so important.

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Paper 1

Dear classmates,

In the last 10 years, technology has changed our country. It's a great deal. But even though we have so many new inventions, there's only one which comes to mind. The i-pod's / MP3 players.

Honestly, other people say that the i-pod's / MP3 players are a waste of time and good energy we could be using instead of this nonsense. Critics think you can go deaf by hearing the same song over and over again. Also when you turn the volume up higher causes some injuries to the ear canal. But with all due respect, that's not the case.

Truly, the MP3 players / i-pods are the greatest invention ever. Who ever came up with the idea, they are a genius in my eyes. This invention takes downloading your favorite songs to a new level. Just like CD players minus the CD.... its portable, less expensive, and can hold up to how ever many songs you want. Now that's an invention! It's just the greatest one ever created if you really think about it.

Just summing it all up all I'm saying is that over the years technology has

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Paper 1 (page two)

changed for the good and for the bad. Some inventions have been good and others weren't that successful. But the mp3 players / i-pods have. Many people are purchasing them these days. Respectfully, that's why I think the greatest invention ever created has to be the mp3 player / i-pod! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Annotations for Paper 1

Ideas Score: 2

The controlling idea (The MP3 player is the greatest invention) is minimally developed. Supporting ideas are relevant (addressing the counterargument that the MP3 players cause deafness and showing the advantages of the MP3 player). The writer develops these two supporting ideas only partially, however. Details are limited (e.g., “When you turn the volume up higher causes some injuries to the ear canal” and “its portable, less expensive, and can hold up to how ever many songs you want”). This paper has effective focus, but there is not quite enough information to provide a sense of completeness. This example is at the high-end of the 2-range.

Organization Score: 3

The organizing strategy (introduction / counterargument / position / conclusion) is appropriate to assigned topic and persuasive purpose. The introduction is clear. The writer groups related ideas about how MP3 players do not cause deafness and how they are beneficial. Ideas within paragraphs follow a generally clear sequence but not always a logical one. Some transitions link ideas in the paper (e.g., “this nonsense,” “with all do respect, that’s not the case,” and “Now that’s an invention”). The conclusion provides clear closure. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Organization.

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally effective (e.g., “injuries to the ear canal,” “downloading your favorite songs,” and “instead of this nonsense”). There are lapses into simple, repetitive language (e.g., “for the good and for the bad” and “some inventions have been good”). The writer’s tone and voice are clear and appropriate (e.g., “Now that’s an invention!”). Audience awareness is evident in most parts of the paper (e.g., “if you really think about it”). There is some variation in sentence length and structure. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Style. The clarity of the writer’s tone and voice make this response an example of a “high 3” in Style.

Conventions Score: 3

Sentences are generally correct, but there are some ineffective attempts (e.g., “Also when you turn the volume up higher causes some injuries to the ear canal”). There are also some fragments (e.g., “But the MP3 players/i-pods have”). Usage is generally correct, but there are some errors (e.g., “all do respect” and “they are a genius”). The elements of mechanics are generally correct, with the exception of some missing internal punctuation (e.g., “all Im saying”). Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the elements of Conventions.

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 2

Technology has changed our country a lot in the past ten years. We wouldn't know or be able to do most of the stuff we do today if it weren't for technology. Almost everything we do now days has to do with technology.

However new inventions would be great, but I think technology was the best invention ever. No new inventions would compare to technology. Technology has changed our country in so many good ways.

If it wasn't for technology, we wouldn't have phones, computers, or television. I can't imagine how boring life would be without technology and people wouldn't be as smart as they are today without technology. Our army wouldn't be as good as they are today without all the technology stuff they use. However some people do take an advantage of technology.

People shouldn't take advantage of technology. They should be thankful we have it. For an example, people who hack and make viruses and viruses to mess up other peoples computers. Computers are very expensive and they are very useful.

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Annotations for Paper 2

Ideas Score: 1

The writer does not establish a controlling idea. Instead, the response consists mostly of undeveloped statements about technology (e.g., “technology has changed our country in so many good ways,” and “people wouldn’t be as smart as they are today without technology”). There is limited development for the idea that some people take advantage of technology (e.g., people who write viruses for computers), but, overall, the paper lacks a focused position.

Organization Score: 1

The response contains little evidence of an organizing strategy. There is very little evidence of meaningful sequencing; most of the sentences could be rearranged. There are so few related ideas that there is little evidence of grouping. There are few transitions in the paper, and some are used ineffectively (e.g., it is not clear what is being contrasted in the statement “However, new inventions would be great, but I think technology was the best invention”). The last few statements about computer viruses have some organizational logic, but this logic is absent in most of the response. There is no conclusion.

Style Score: 2

Word choice is mostly simple and repetitive (e.g., “most of the stuff we do today,” “in so many good ways,” and “wouldn’t be as good as they are today”). There is some sense of a positive tone in the paper, and there is limited evidence of the writer’s voice (e.g., “I cant imagine how boring life would be without technology”). Overall, though, more effective language is necessary for the writer to demonstrate more than minimal control of the components of Style.

Conventions Score: 2

This paper is an example of a “high-2” in Conventions. Most of the sentences are correct, but there is a fragment toward the end of the response (“For an example, people who hack and make Trojans and viruses to mess up other peoples coumputers”). Usage is generally correct, but there are some phrases that contain unnecessary words (e.g., “some people do take an advantage of technology” and “For an example”). With respect to mechanics, there are some misspellings (e.g., “usefull”) and missing internal punctuation (e.g., “other peoples computers”). Even though there are not many errors in this paper, it is quite brief. More evidence is needed to determine more than minimal competence in Conventions.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

Paper 3

Technology has played a huge role in our lives for years, and has helped us advance in many ways. One technological invention that I say is key to our development as a world society is computers. Computers have replaced labor workers; are more accurate; find information about anything; and are available to anyone.

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Although many are skeptical about our overdependency on technology, they also realize that we don't function without computers. When you drive, go to school, go to work, or even the hospital, you will always find a computer. Our lives are surrounded by daily activities that involve some type of computer. For example, computers have practically replaced labor workers. People no longer carry heavy loads, or count in their head. There is a computer to do all the work for almost any task.

On the other hand, some people are not involved in high technological jobs so they only use a computer for research. For instance, when a student has a paper to write or project due, they automatically go to a computer for information. In fact, some offices have computerized paperwork such as schools. Offices consider paper copies as backups.

In addition, the ~~computer's~~ reason that computers are so popular is because they are available to anyone in the public. Any civilian can walk into a store and buy a computer off the shelf to have complete access to the

Paper 3 (page two)

Internet and world. Just like there is an up and down to everything, the down to computers is that it gives people more access to other people's information and status. You just have to be careful where you put your personal information.

In conclusion, it is obvious why computers are the most important and popular invention. Besides the fact that they replace people for hard labor, they also can find almost any kind of information through the worldwide web. Computers role in our life has skyrocketed since the 1990's but now its unbelievable. Some people say they cant go 1 day without technology. Can you?

Annotations for Paper 3

Ideas Score: 3

The controlling idea (computers are the most important invention) is clear. Main supporting ideas are relevant (computers help people work more effectively, they help people do research, and they are widely available). The writer develops these supporting ideas with some examples and details (e.g., “when a student has a paper to write or project due, they automatically go to a computer for information”). The writer does not elaborate much on these details (e.g., to what websites do students go to find information for a project; what kind of information do they find there?). Further elaboration would create better depth of development and address more reader concerns. Overall, though, there is enough information in the response to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Organization. The introduction clearly sets the stage for the development that follows (“One technological invention that I say is key to our development as a world society is computers”). The writer groups related ideas about how computers help people work more effectively, they help people do research, and how they are widely available. Ideas within paragraphs build logically on one another, for the most part (e.g., “People no longer carry heavy loads, or count in their head. → There is a computer to do all the work for almost any task”). A variety of transitions link body paragraphs and ideas within them (e.g., “On the other hand, some people are not...,” “For example,” and “Just like there is an up and down to everything”). The conclusion provides effective summary without repetition, as well as a question for the reader to consider (“Some people say they cant go 1 day without technology. Can you?”).

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally effective (e.g., “replaced labor workers,” and “Any civilian can walk into a store and buy a computer off the shelf to have complete access to the internet and world”). This effective vocabulary creates a clear tone and voice. There are some lapses into repetitive, simpler language (e.g., overuse of the term “computer”). The writer demonstrates audience awareness in the majority of the paper (e.g., “Our lives are surrounded by daily activities that involve some type of computer”). Sentences vary in length and structure. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Style.

Conventions Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of all elements of Conventions. Simple, compound, and complex sentences are consistently clear and correct. Most elements of usage are correct, with the exception of a few agreement errors (e.g., “computers ... gives people”). Most elements of mechanics are correct. The writer almost always uses commas correctly, but there are a few missing apostrophes (e.g., “peoples information,” “Computers role,” and “its unbelievable”).

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 4

Dear classmates,

We all know the feeling; we turn sixteen, and we obtain freedom. How? We put our hands on the wheel, turn up the radio, roll down the windows, and breathe in the sweet smell of car exhaust as the wind blows through our hair. Many of you would probably already agree with me in saying that the car is the most important invention ever created. For those of you who have your doubts, let's take a step back and look at the impact the car has made in our world.

The first days of the automobile were glorious for humans and horses alike. Longer journeys could be made in half the time. This wasn't only convenient, but also very important. Medicine could be distributed to the sick who were far away from a doctor; goods could be transported to rural areas that were away from market places; people could visit their relatives and peers with much more ease. The automobile was a major source of cultural diffusion, especially in Europe where new ideas spread more quickly than ever.

The benefits didn't stop there. The car led the way for more advanced forms of transportation. Trains were already present, but they began to improve. Today we can see that the automobile has overcome a major transformation. It is now faster and safer, not to mention much nicer. We have even gone so far as NASA.

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Paper 4 (page two)

Although speed makes for great entertainment, think how important speed is in the roles of ambulances, firetrucks, and police cars. How would the building you are sitting in now exist without tractors and land levelers? There are down sides to the automobile as in every invention: accidents, pollution, and congestion, have affected us all. But we can clearly see that the good the automobile has done, far outweighs the bad.

By looking into history and seeing the importance this invention has had in our world, our culture, and our lives, we can clearly see that there is no other invention that has brought such progress and development as the automobile. It is truly the most important of all inventions.

Your Fellow Classmate,

Annotations for Paper 4

Ideas Score: 4

The controlling idea (the car is the most important invention) is well developed with relevant supporting ideas (the advantages of the car; how automotive technology has progressed, resulting in further advantages). The writer develops these supporting ideas with specific examples, details, and further elaboration (e.g., “Longer journeys could be made in half the time. This wasn’t only convenient, but also very important. Medicine could be distributed to the sick who were far away”). There are a few missed opportunities to elaborate more fully (e.g., “It is now faster and safer, not to mention much nicer” – *how is it nicer?*). Overall, though, the response contains complete information that is consistently appropriate to the persuasive purpose.

Organization Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Organization. In the introduction, the writer uses an appeal to common experience to engage the reader and set the stage for the development that follows (“We put our hands on the wheel, turn up the radio, roll down the windows, and breath in the sweet smell of car exhaust as the wind blows through our hair”). The writer groups related ideas about the advantages of the car and how automotive technology has progressed, resulting in further advantages). Ideas build logically one another in most parts of the response (e.g., “The car led the way for more advanced forms of transportation. → Trains were already present, but they began to improve”). A variety of transitions link body paragraphs and ideas within them (e.g., “This wasn’t only convenient, but also important,” “The benefits didn’t stop there,” and “There are down sides to the automobile as in every invention”). Occasionally, a transition is missing that would improve the flow of ideas (e.g., in paragraph three, there is no transition between the focus on the train’s improvements and the car’s improvements). The conclusion provides effective summary without repetition.

Style Score: 4

Word choice is consistently precise and engaging (e.g., “the wind blows through your hair,” “the automobile was a major source of cultural diffusion,” and “There are downsides to the automobile as in every invention”). This effective vocabulary creates an authoritative tone and a distinct voice. Lapses into less precise language are infrequent (e.g., “It is now faster and safer, not to mention nicer” and “the good ... far outweighs the bad”). The writer demonstrates audience awareness throughout the paper (e.g., “think how important speed is in the roles of ambulances, firetrucks, and police cars”). Sentences vary in length and structure. Overall, the writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Style. This is an example of a “high 4.” The word choice is not quite as precise and technical in paragraph three as it is in paragraph two.

Conventions Score: 5

The writer demonstrates a full command of all elements of Conventions. A variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences are consistently clear and correct. All elements of usage are consistently correct. Mechanics are correct the vast majority of the time, with the exception of a few unnecessary commas (e.g., “the good the automobile has done, far outweighs the bad”). Control is evident in well over 90% of the response.

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Paper 5

Technology has changed a lot over the last 10 years. More people have been use the internet and have computers. The internet has been providing information for people.

Electronics have been rapidly growing. Many people have been buying ipods, cell phones, video games etc. Those have all been made from technology. This things have been a big thing for the last couple of years.

Technology can help people out a ton. People use technology for everyday life. The space station uses technology to make sure things go ok with spaceships. Police use it for criminals. Video gamers use it to make video games. People all over the world use technology. Some don't have the same benefits as the United States has.

Technology is a wonderful thing. It has so many benefits as it did 10 years ago. People probably didn't have computer, cell phones, etc. that's now I think technology has changed over ten years.

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Annotations for Paper 5

Ideas Score: 2

This writer discusses the benefits of technology in general, which is an acceptable way to respond to Prompt 128. The controlling idea (Technology benefits people now more than ever) is minimally developed. Supporting ideas are relevant (e.g., innovations in electronics and increased safety due to technology). These supporting ideas are developed only partially. Details are limited and overly general (e.g., “Many people have been buying iPods, cell phones, video games etc.,” and “Police use it for criminals”). There is not enough information in the response to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization Score: 2

The writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Organization. The opening sentence is more of an introductory statement than a formal introduction. There is some evidence of grouping (paragraph two, for example). In the third paragraph, however, unrelated ideas are grouped together. Only occasionally are sentences clearly sequenced (e.g., Many people have been buying iPods, cell phones, video games etc. → Those have all been made from technology”). There are few transitions that effectively link ideas. The brief conclusion provides some closure, but it is quite repetitive.

Style Score: 2

Word choice is simple, ordinary, and occasionally imprecise. (e.g., “This things have been a big thing for the last couple of years”). The largely ineffective language leads to a muted tone and an indistinct voice. There is little sentence variety and evidence of audience awareness. Overall, the writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Style.

Conventions Score: 2

Most sentences are correct, but they are also simple. The writer does not demonstrate control forming compound or complex sentences. Regarding usage, there are several incorrect word forms (e.g., “More people have been use the internet,” “This things have been,” and “People probably didn’t have computer”). Most elements of mechanics are correct, but the usage errors and the simplicity of the sentences keep the paper in the 2-range in Conventions.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

Paper 6 (page two)

no pollution. Its cheaper to make then solar energy and produces more energy the a Nuclear power plant! Thats hard core energy right there. This energy can even be made compact and put in to ships, space ships, and maybe one day cars and homes. This source has so much potential and all it uses is hydrogen, "One of the most abundant gases in the Galaxy!". This energy can be mined from the atmosphere of Jupiter and other planets as well as asteroids. The best thing about it is the non-existent ability to melt down and cause radiation. Its safe on the enviroment, wild life will be safe, and air can get cleaner making all life easier on this world.

Fusion energy will be used in everything we do and no one would have to fear it. This is a safe clean energy that runs on Hydrogen which comes by it self as a gas or liquid and trough water. We will no longer hide from the threat of nuclear destruction from this energy. Life would be safer knowing there is not a nuclear explosive in your backyard. The future definitely looks bright in the years to come.

Annotations for Paper 6

Ideas Score: 5

The controlling idea (nuclear fusion is the most important invention) is fully developed. Supporting ideas are relevant (how other energy sources are flawed; the advantages of nuclear fusion). The writer develops these supporting ideas with specific examples, details, and elaboration (e.g., the detailed account of the problems with fission, and “The best thing about it is the non-existent ability to melt down and cause radiation. Its safe on the environment, wild life will be safe, and air can get cleaner making all life easier on this world”). The abundance of information about how nuclear fusion is superior to other energy forms addresses several reader concerns and perspectives.

Organization Score: 5

The compare/contrast organizing strategy is appropriate to the writer’s topic and the persuasive purpose. The introduction effectively sets the stage for the body of the paper (“This type of energy will open doors to new horizons never thought possible”). The writer groups related ideas about how other energy sources are flawed and the advantages of nuclear fusion). Ideas build logically on one another throughout the response (e.g., “Fusion energy is the safest, cheapest, and most abundant power solution. → It harnesses the power [of] a puny Hydrogen atom and creates tons and tons of energy with no pollution”). A variety of effective transitions link body paragraph and ideas within them (e.g., “The new generation looks to fusion,” “After that they discovered fission,” and pronoun substitution like “it” for “fusion energy”). The conclusion provides effective summary without repetition (“The future definitely looks bright in the years to come”).

Style Score: 5

The writer includes a variety of carefully crafted phrases to engage the reader and establish an authoritative tone (e.g., “The eye of the past looked upon coal, natural gas, and fission energy to power its world, but the eye of the future looks to ... fusion energy as it new power source,” “clogged our lungs and scorched the sky,” and “a bomb waiting to explode causing massive radiation damage”). The writer’s voice is clear and strong throughout the paper (e.g., “Thats hardcore energy right there”). There is an extensive variety of sentence lengths, structures, and beginnings.

Conventions Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of all elements of Conventions. Simple, compound, and complex sentences are consistently clear and correct. There is an overloaded sentence in the second paragraph, and the first sentence in paragraph three is missing a word. Issues like these, though, are the exception, not the rule. Most elements of usage are correct, with the exception of some incorrect word forms (e.g., “coal ... shots tons of toxic gases” and “cheaper to make then solar energy”). Most elements of mechanics are correct, but there are some missing apostrophes (e.g., “Its cheaper to make” and “Thats hardcore”) and misspellings (e.g., “safiest” and “cheapiest”).

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Paper 7

Today's technology is more advanced than it was a decade ago. There are new inventions every few months or years that entertain, help, or save our lives. The inventions that are here to save us that have never been heard of and some we have known for over a thousand years. This technology is only found in only one place that is the hospital. These are the ~~things~~^{places} you can go to to get help for an illness.

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These days there are people with unknown problems that can be serious or even fatal. That means there is only one place to go for help the hospital. They have the technology to find the health problem and help the doctors find a cure for the diagnosis. There are machines that help doctors with their jobs and help save our lives.

There are inventions that save lives after they are lost. There is one I forget the name of it but after the heart has stopped it revives it with a sudden shock of electricity. Then this other invention that helps with head problems it is called a cat scan. The cat scan takes pictures of the inside of the cranium and lets the doctor know what is going on cause there are several problems like a tumor, head trauma, or serious head damage. This way the doctor can help you.

This one is not actually technology but can save it but this also means best friend. That right a dog can now save your life and not from a robbery or fire but from cancer dogs are now being trained to sniff out a certain cancer that are in human it tells them to stop the dog but look if it is worth it.

So now I could next talk about one invention but technology

Paper 7 (page two)

in the past decade. These are the inventions I chose to talk about.
These are what important that has been invented in the last decade.
Now life must go on and more invention must be invented.

Annotations for Paper 7

Ideas Score: 3

The controlling idea (advances in medical technology are important) is sufficiently developed. Supporting ideas are relevant (medical technology can address serious health problems, the effectiveness of CAT-scans, and the utility of cancer dogs). Development for these supporting ideas is uneven. The details in body paragraphs one and three are more general, and elaboration is more limited. Body paragraph two (CAT-scans), however, contains more specific details and elaboration (e.g., “The cat scan takes pictures of the inside of the cranium and lets the doctor know what is going on cause there are several problems like a tumor, head trauma, or serious head damage”). More consistent use of specific details and elaboration would move this response beyond score point three in Ideas.

Organization Score: 3

The writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Organization. The introduction is clear and fits the topic and purpose. The writer groups related ideas about how medical technology can address serious health problems, the effectiveness of CAT-scans, and the utility of cancer dogs. Ideas within paragraphs follow a clear sequence, for the most part (e.g., “These days there are people with unknown problems that can be serious or even fatal. → That means there is only one place to go for help the hospital”). Some transitions link ideas within paragraphs (e.g., “That means,” “This way,” and “That right a dog can now save your life”). Transitions between body paragraphs, however, are absent. The conclusion provides some closure, though in an overly broad way (“These are the inventions I chose to talk about”).

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally effective (e.g., “serious or even fatal,” “revives it with a sudden shock of electricity,” and “sniff out a certain cancer”). There are some lapses in control of language (e.g., “There are machine that help doctors with their job and help save our lives”). The tone is sincere, and the writer’s voice is generally clear (e.g., “look it is worth it”). Audience awareness is evident in most parts of the response (e.g., “This way the doctor can help you”). There is some variation in sentence length and structure.

Conventions Score: 2

There are about as many correct instances as there are incorrect, in each of the three components of Conventions. There are correct sentences as well as run-ons, fragments, and ineffective attempts (e.g., “Then this other invention that helps with head problem it is called a cat scan” – which is part fragment, part run-on). Some elements of usage are correct, but there are several errors as well (e.g., “There are machine that help,” “helps with head problem,” and “That right a dog can now save your life”). With respect to mechanics, formatting, capitalization, and spelling are generally correct, but there is missing internal punctuation (e.g., “Todays technology” and “mans best friend”).

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 8

Computer are more technology to me
that's what I think is
more important inventions to the
Studies Because with out Computer
YOU will be lost that why
they come up with A invention
for computer that's the only way
they will keep us on track Computer
Are so smart an they will keep
the Data up and waiting for you
you can search for news information got
local news But it Just so much
stuff you can get on them
Computer like in ten more
year they might come up
with something smarter
then that But until they
I am going to stay with
computer because you will never
now what you are doing
But if it wasn't for now
Computer will be so lost
It will be impush the
that's the only thing Am
worry about But Computer are
my main think and I hope
I'll be there when they

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Paper 8 (page two)

Come out with a another
invention Because i will be
right there with for it
So that what I think
is more technology so me
But it was write on that
all in the maker

Annotations for Paper 8

Ideas Score: 1

The writer takes a position (computers are the most important invention), but a controlling idea is not established. That is because the supporting ideas (e.g., you can get news from the computer) are not developed. To go beyond the one-range in Ideas, the supporting ideas would need some development.

Organization Score: 1

The paper does not have a clear organizing strategy. From the opening statements, it is evident that the writer is discussing computers, but the subsequent statements are not sequenced in a clear way. Because there are so few related ideas, the paper lacks evidence of grouping. There are no transitions linking ideas. The concluding statements do not provide effective closure (e.g., “But it was write on that all in the maker(?)”).

Style Score: 1

The writer does not control language to engage the reader. Word choice is often imprecise and confusing (e.g., “But if It wasn’t for now computer will be so lost It will Be impush the that’s the only thing AM worry about”). This lack of control prevents the writer from establishing a clear tone and voice. There is little sentence variety and evidence of audience awareness.

Conventions Score: 1

There are severe and repeated errors in all elements of Conventions (e.g., “Because I will Be right there with for it so that what I think is more technology to me”). Errors interfere with meaning. The writer demonstrates control in far less than 50% of the response.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

Paper 9

When one thinks about what the most important invention of today's world is, does that person think about comfort and luxury or new technology and improvements on old and obsolete computers? Personally, I lean toward the safety and security genre of the subject. Of course, one's idea on the most important invention is always an opinion and will always be nothing but an opinion but with that in mind, I'd like to share the opinion of someone that appreciates the feeling of safety and security.

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Keeping other people informed of natural disasters, diseases on the rise, and even warfare has been a lifesaving, day-to-day practice that has been in motion ever since deemed possible. Take, for example, hurricane Katrina. Imagine the death toll if they hadn't been warned. Sure communication can be done by word of mouth but how long can that take? I'm talking about communication on a large scale by radio, television, the works, all in perfect sync to keep the world informed. To say that it would be chaotic if all of these things were absent in today's world would be nothing less than an understatement. Modern communication, in some ways, can be viewed as a tool, or even a necessity for day-to-day survival. Luckily, we had means of communication when Katrina

Paper 9 (page two)

hit which is a primary reason the death toll wasn't two fold what it is now. A perfect example of a world without communication and the consequences tied with it is the incident in Asia involving a tsunami. Deaths were in the millions because they weren't warned or prepared.

Now for a point of view to persuade the luxury seeker. Travel would be greatly affected if communications were absent. A pilot would have no way of knowing what to do if ground control wasn't there to guide him. A ship would be easily lost without a radio. Many luxuries are lost without communication. As far as I know, the Army relies on communication for just about everything. Imagine life without communications. Many people in North Korea are unaware of the rest of the world because they have no connection with it.

Of course this is only the opinion of someone who is grateful that communication with the rest of the world has contributed to his safety. Maybe my opinion could sway yours; maybe not. Regardless, I hope my opinion has given you a better appreciation for the modern communications that keep you informed and safe.

Annotations for Paper 9

Ideas Score: 4

The controlling idea (communication devices are the most important inventions) is well developed with relevant supporting ideas (communication devices were essential during Hurricane Katrina, and they are also indispensable for travel). The writer develops these supporting ideas with specific examples, details, and further elaboration (e.g., “Imagine the death toll if they hadn’t been warned. Sure communication can be done by word of mouth but how long can that take To say that it would be chaotic if all of these things were absent in today’s world would be nothing less than an understatement”). There are a few missed opportunities to elaborate more fully (e.g., during the discussion of the Tsunami in Indonesia and of communication in North Korea). The response contains complete information that is consistently appropriate to the persuasive purpose.

Organization Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Organization. In the introduction, the writer does not specify the invention he/she will discuss but does offer hints (“I’d like to share the opinion of someone that appreciates the feeling of safety and security”). This approach is effective inasmuch as it encourages the reader to keep reading to find out what the invention is. The writer groups related ideas about how communication devices were essential during Hurricane Katrina, and they are also indispensable for travel. Ideas build logically on one another in most parts of the response (e.g., “Travel would be greatly affected if communications were absent. → A pilot would have no way of knowing what to do if ground control wasn’t there to guide him”). Transitions link body paragraphs and ideas within them (e.g., “Now for a point of view to persuade the luxury seeker,” “but with that in mind”). The conclusion provides effective closure without repetition.

Style Score: 5

The writer includes a variety of carefully crafted phrases to engage the reader and establish a clear, appropriate tone (e.g., “Modern communication, in some ways, can be viewed as a tool, or even a necessity for day-to-day survival,” and “A perfect example of a world without communication and the consequences tied with it is the incident in Asia involving a Tsunami”). The writer demonstrates audience awareness throughout the paper (e.g., “I hope my opinion has given you a better appreciation for the modern communications that keep you informed and safe”). There is an extensive variety of sentence lengths, structures, and beginnings.

Conventions Score: 5

The writer demonstrates a full command of all elements of Conventions. A variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences are consistently clear and correct. All elements of usage are consistently correct. Mechanics are correct the vast majority of the time, with the exception of a few instances of missing internal punctuation (e.g., “they werent warned or prepared” and “wasnt there”).

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Paper 10

In today's society, many people spend thousands of dollars on worthless technology. There has been approximately 95% of ~~inventions~~ new inventions created since the year 2000. These inventions include: Cell phones, laptops, internet, walkie-talkies, T-pods, MP3 players, & many more. What is the most common used technology? Well we all know that cellphones are used 95% of the time when communicating. The most important used technology are the computers with Internet.

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Computers have been invented since, at least 12 yrs. from now, in a major industrial country. Computers provide many software programs for your family & you. There are many things you can do on the computer, even if you don't have internet. You can type papers on Microsoft Word, play games & learn how to do new things on your computer. Mostly all computers have Microsoft Office, a program that has been created since 1997.

Computers are the most important invention in today's world, for they help many of us, students in school. When you need to type a paper, what do you use?

A computer, when you need research done, what do you use?

A computer, that has internet. A computer is needed in everything you do in the world. When you're at McDonald's you see the cashier uses a computer to ring up the food items.

When I get on the computer, the first thing I do is obtain on the internet I love this new technology, now I can talk to my friend while I'm on the computer. All computers with internet have an e-mail address. I am

Paper 10 (page two)

registered with America Online (AOL) I always check my mail, it's just like the post mail you get at home. After that, I usually just surf the web. When using the computer you always using 2 hands and 10 fingers, whether it's typing or moving the mouse. When you're on a laptop you just use your finger to click, there's a pad used as a mouse.

The world today has so many computer software programs. The one I use is "DELL", with Microsoft programs. About 85% of students in school have computers at home. That let's you know that their parents understand how important computers are. Many teachers require students to have reports typed, not hand written. When you don't have a phone book or an updated one, you can go on the internet and search for that organization's number. I use the computer for many important things, but mainly college mail, reports/research.

So, now do you understand why you should consider computers the most important invention in today's world? You should, there's the internet, Microsoft programs, games, student/college programs, encyclopedias and many other things you can do with this amazing technology. The most important invention should be useful, helpful, needed, exciting, and affordable. That's why computers have these requirements for they apply to everyone.

Annotations for Paper 10

Ideas Score: 3

The controlling idea (the computer is the most important invention) is clear. Main supporting ideas are relevant (computers help people with their work, and they feature the internet). The writer develops these supporting ideas with some examples and details (e.g., “You can type papers on Microsoft Word,” “When your at McDonald’s you see the cashier uses a computer to ring up the food items,” and “When you don’t have a phone book or an updated one, you can go on the internet and search for that organization and number”). Some of these details are specific, but many details are more general (e.g., “After that, I usually surf the web”) and the writer rarely elaborates further on details. Overall, there is sufficient information to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization Score: 3

The writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Organization. The introduction sets the stage for the development in the body of the paper (out of all the important inventions, the “most important . . . are the computers and internet”). Most ideas about the computer’s usefulness and the internet’s benefits are grouped together. Ideas within paragraphs follow a generally clear sequence, but they do not necessarily build logically on one another. Some transitions link ideas (e.g., rhetorical questions that serve as links between ideas, such as “When you need to type a paper, what do you use”). The conclusion provides clear closure.

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally effective (e.g., “ring up the food items,” “registered with America Online (AOL),” and “search for that organization”). There are, however, lapses into simple, repetitive language (e.g., “There are many things you can do,” “do new things on your computer,” and “I use the computer for many important things”). The generally enthusiastic tone and voice are appropriate. The writer effectively uses rhetorical questions, a clear demonstration of audience awareness (e.g., “when you need research done, what do you use?”). There is some variation in sentence length and structure. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Style.

Conventions Score: 3

Sentences are generally correct, but there are some fragments and run-ons (e.g., “A computer, when you need research done, what do you use?” and “I always check my mail, it’s just like the post mail you get at home”). The elements of usage are generally correct, but there are some incorrect word forms (e.g., “the most common used technology,” “When your at McDonald’s,” and “serf the web”). Most elements of mechanics are correct. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the elements of Conventions.

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 11

Dear _____

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Technology has changed our country a great deal in the past ten years. With the past of the years the man had discovered many new inventions, as one that can help disability people or people with physical damage. Technology also been helpfull with the police that in many cases technology can save our life with jus one call.

Technology been helpfull for the disability people or with physical damage. Thanks to the technology many kids with this problem can come to school and get a better learning help because if school would have the technology to help them and the teacher to let know what the kid want. Technology been helpfull to disability people in many cases.

Technology also been helpfull for the police. without this help from the technology police wouldn't have the safe and the total protection which in that case would be bad for us and the people who live in the state, country or even in the world. Since they found out the technology it been the best the for the world.

Paper 11 (page two)

In conclusion technology can be the best instrument for you. If you know how to use it the right way, like they are using it for the good of the people in the world and in our country, I think we all use ~~the~~ technology at home so we just need to be careful. It can be dangerous too.

Annotations for Paper 11

Ideas Score: 2

The controlling idea (new technologies have improved our lives) is minimally developed. The supporting ideas are relevant (technology improvements help the disabled and the police). The writer includes few details, however, to develop these supporting ideas (e.g., devices for disabled students help teachers understand what these students want). The writer never specifies technology related to law enforcement, but he/she does note, “Without this help from the technology police wouldn’t have the safe and total protection.” Overall, the writer does not include enough information to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization Score: 2

The writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Organization. The introduction is clear, and the writer demonstrates some control of grouping (e.g., related ideas about technology that helps disabled children and the police). Evidence of clear sequencing is limited, mostly because there are only a few sentences in each paragraph. The response does not contain many transitions (e.g., “Thanks to the technology” and “Technology also been helpful”). The conclusion has limited effectiveness because the writer begins to focus on technology at home and the dangers of technology rather than providing clear closure to the paper as a whole.

Style Score: 2

Word choice is mostly simple and ordinary (e.g., “many kids,” “bad for us,” and “they are using it for the good”). The writer seems to have a caring tone, but it is not sustained, due in large part to lapses in control of language (“Since they found out the technology it been the best for the world”). Sentence variety is limited. Overall, the writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Style.

Conventions Score: 1

Nearly all attempts at sentence formation result in fragments, run-ons, or ineffective constructions because of missing words (e.g., “Technology also been helpful with the police that in many cases technology can save our life with jus one call”). There are usage errors throughout the response (“get a better learning,” “what the kid want,” and “Technology also been helpful for the police”). There are not many errors in mechanics, but the frequency and severity of errors in sentence formation and usage make this paper more like a “1” than any other score.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

The Best Invention Ever:

The Telephone

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The telephone became practical in 1901 during the 2nd Industrial Revolution. From then on, it has become a major essential in many people daily life. Without the telephone being used in our daily life, our communication status would be very low. The telephone helps because it is good for emergencies, good communication tool, and with a cell phone, (which is cordless), you can take it anywhere you go. Let me try to convince you why the telephone is the best invention yet.

The telephone helps us in our daily life because it is good for emergencies. Whenever there is a true emergency, you're always advised to call 911. Well a telephone is what you need is help, ~~new~~ then a cell phone is the answer. Having a telephone during an emergency can also save your life one day. You can have a house phone, cell phone, or both. If you rather choose one, I would highly recommend the cell phone.

The telephone is also a great invention because it is a good communication tool. When communicating with someone, it is one of the highest and fastest communication tools. Even though some people use e-mail and regular mail, you can get into contact faster with the telephone. It is a good talking device for chatting.

Paper 12 (page two)

with your friends or calling someone long distance.

The last thing that you can remember about why the telephone is handy because when you have a cell phone (which is cordless), and you can take it anywhere you go. Yes, the house phone is useful for parents, but majority of people are away from home most of the time. The cell phone is useful for parents also. They can be able to contact their child any time while they are out. Not all is the cell phone useful in communication, but it also come with cool features that would fit a teenager.

This is why the telephone is the best and most useful invention since the 1900s. If you don't have one, you should check it out.

Annotations for Paper 12

Ideas Score: 3

The controlling idea (the telephone is the best invention) is developed with relevant supporting ideas (emergencies, communication, cell phone portability). The writer provides some relevant details and examples (911 calls can save your life, fast method that allows one to talk with people near or more distant, the cell phone can be taken anywhere and is useful for parents to contact their child any time). Some reader concerns are addressed briefly (save a life, being able to contact a child no matter where he or she may be). There are opportunities to elaborate further (some of the “cool features,” for example) in each paragraph, but overall, there are sufficient details to create a sense of completeness; the writer is generally focused on the assigned topic and genre.

Organization Score: 3

The overall organizational strategy (introduction, supporting reasons, conclusion) is generally appropriate to the writer’s ideas and persuasive writing. The introduction sets the stage with the points to support the writer’s position. Within the body of the paper, ideas are generally sequenced in an order of importance, and related ideas about the telephone’s usefulness are grouped together. The writer uses some transitions (“From then on,” “Without the telephone,” “Whenever,” “also,” “Even though,” “last,”) to link parts of the paper. Transitions within paragraphs are more varied and interesting than those used between paragraphs, but the use of “telephone” in the opening sentence of each is an effective linking device. The brief conclusion provides closure by making a recommendation to the reader.

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally engaging (“practical,” “a major essential,” “status,” “true emergency,” “advised to call,” “cool features”) with lapses into simple and ordinary language (“has become,” “very low,” “if you rather,” “good,” “Not all...but it also come”). Overall, the language creates a sincere tone that is consistent with the writer’s purpose and the assigned genre. Audience awareness is demonstrated (“let me convince you,” “Well, a telephone is what you need,” “If you don’t have one”). The writer’s voice is clear (“became practical,” “helps us in our daily life,” “great invention,” “the telephone is handy”). There is some variety in sentence length and structure.

Conventions Score: 3

A majority of sentences are correct, but there are errors [“The last thing that you can remember about why the telephone is handy because when you have a cell phone (which is cordless), and you can take it anywhere you go.”]. Usage is generally correct, but there are several errors (“has become,” “many people daily life,” “If you rather choose,” “majority of people are,” “can be able to contact,” “It also come”). There are some mechanics errors (“practical,” “esstienal,” “convince,” “contast,” and missing commas), but they do not interfere with meaning.

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 13

Classmates,

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Everyday new technology is developed and old technology is improved on. But really we owe the greatest of our technology to the late 1980's, when the internet was created. The internet is, by far, the most astounding thing ever thought of. The net has, in its very short life, promoted freethought, boosted the world's economy, and helped people stay together.

Freethought is terrifically important in the world today, no matter where you are. Revolutions and change happen all because people question what's told to them and ask "why?". China is a perfect example of this. The People's Republic of China was established in 1949, and for years it went on as a good, wholesome communist country. But then China started letting their students have access to the outside world, mostly through the internet. Now, all of the sudden, Chinese students are questioning their government's authority. Yes, they did this in the years before, but the government dealt with those revolutionists quickly and quietly, before their ideas spread very far. But in this time, in a matter of minutes, students can post their ideas for everyone to see. In this way the net is promoting democracy and equality.

You might be asking, ^{yourself} "why doesn't china just outlaw the internet?" The answer is simple, the internet has boosted the economy way up and China would want to lose that. Now, business men (and women) can transact multimillion dollar deals in a matter of seconds. This makes huge corporations feel much safer about placing their factors across the ocean from them. China's economy is booming.

Paper 13 (page two)

because big businesses are putting their factories in China, creating more jobs and much more money. The standard of living has increased dramatically since all this started, and not just in China, either!

But money will only get you so far, what you really need is love. Whether its friendly love, family love, or true love ~~doesn't~~ really matter, you just need love, plain and simple. The internet allows people to stay in touch whether they are three house down, or a world apart. This summer my best friend moved a couple countries over, somewhere almost ^{three} hours away. I was completely devastated until we started emailing back and forth. I finally feel like close to him again. But the internet also helped my mom and I stay close this summer, when I went off to Ireland and she stayed in Georgia. Almost everyday I was gone, I would stop by an internet cafe and tell her how wonderful everything was, and how, yes, I was doing fine on my own.

Really the is so amazing it would take me days to say everything. But since I don't have days, ^{and} merely this pen and paper I will end my letter to you by posing a question. "Where would we be without the internet? What would the be like?"

Sincerely,

Annotations for Paper 13

Ideas Score: 5

The writer's controlling idea (creation of the internet is the most important technological development) is fully developed with specific examples and details (promotes free thought, affects the world's economy, and helps people maintain close ties) throughout the paper. Supporting ideas (promoting democracy and equality in China, businesses feel safer about having factories in far off places, personal relationships maintained) are relevant and fully elaborated with specific examples and details ("revolution" in thought among China's students who are exposed to new ways of thinking; China tolerates the internet because it also is a factor in the economic advances; and the examples of the best friend moving and the writer going to Ireland) throughout the paper. The response contains abundant information that fully addresses reader concerns about the impact of the internet. The writer is consistently focused on the assigned topic, genre, and purpose.

Organization Score: 5

The overall organizational structure (introduction-three main points-conclusion) is appropriate to the writer's ideas and the assigned genre. The introduction engages the reader ("really we owe the greatest of our technology to the late 1980's when the internet was created") and sets the stage for the argument that follows. Ideas are grouped logically throughout the paper and presented in a clear sequence. The writer uses varied transitional elements ("Everyday"- "in the world today," "example of this," "for years," "then China started," "Now, all of a sudden," "You might ask"- "the answer is," "since all this started," "money will only get you so far," "until, etc.) to effectively link parts of the paper and ideas within paragraphs. Posing a question at the end provides effective closure to the writer's argument.

Style Score: 5

The writer demonstrates a full command of the components of Style. Carefully crafted phrases engage the reader and create a sustained authoritative tone ("new technology is developed and old technology is improved," "Revolutions and change happen all because people question what is told to them and ask "why?"). Word choice is precise and engaging ("astounding," "promoted free thought," "boosted the world's economy," "questioning their government's authority," "transact multimillion dollar deals," "devastated"). The writer's use of precise, vivid language demonstrates sustained attention to the audience throughout the paper. A variety of sentence lengths, structures, and beginnings are used. The writer's voice is clear and appropriate ("the most astounding thing," "completely devastated until we started emailing," "it is so amazing") and sustained throughout the response.

Conventions Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Conventions. Sentences are consistently correct, but there are several fragments beginning "But." There is a run-on: "The answer is simple, the internet has boosted the economy way up . . ." Subjects and verbs agree, and word forms are generally correct (except "a couple counties," "three house down"). Spelling and punctuation are consistently correct, but there are some mechanics errors too (a few missing or unnecessary commas, "chang,"). The minor errors in Conventions do not interfere with meaning.

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Paper 14

Dear Classmates,

In the past decade, many inventions have come out. Some are good, while others are bad, but the electric car is one of the most important. Electric cars have many important factors that make them a worthwhile invention. These include cleaner air, quieter cars, and the use of no gas.

Electric cars have many important factors. The most obvious innovation on electric cars is that they can run on electric energy stored on batteries. This means that with the world's dwindling oil supply and rising cost of gasoline it is possible to save money while by using electric energy. Electric cars also don't pollute the air because they don't produce exhaust. They are also a lot quieter when they are in motion.

However, other good reasons exist for using electric cars. Car wrecks could be cleaned up easier because no gasoline would be spilled. Less imported oil means fewer oil tankers would be sent across the ocean and less oil spills would occur which would save the lives of countless animals.

Most people have only two problems with electric cars, that they are expensive and that there are very few places available to charge the cars at. These two problems are very easy to fix because they are related. If more people bought electric cars then more would be produced and the price would drop. Then with more people driving electric cars then more places would be forced to charge and supply recharging stations.

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Paper 14 (page two)

Overall, the use of the electric car would be a great thing for the world. It would take a few years to get widely used, but it is definitely one of the most important inventions of the last decade.

Annotations for Paper 14

Ideas Score: 3

The controlling idea (the electric car is one of the most important inventions of the last decade) is clear and developed with relevant supporting ideas (advantages of electric energy, environmental impact). The writer provides some examples and details (no exhaust to pollute the air, no oil and gasoline spills on highways, battery run so it is quieter in motion, fewer oil tankers to cause spills in the oceans, reduce dependency on oil) to provide a sense of completeness and address some reader concerns (the writer addresses high cost and a possible solution). Focus on the assigned task is clear, and, overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Ideas.

Organization Score: 3

The organizational strategy (introduction→supporting details→conclusion) is appropriate to the writer’s topic and purpose. The introduction is clear, and related ideas about the advantages and disadvantages of the electric car are grouped together. The sequence of ideas is generally clear as the writer presents the advantages, then acknowledges the current problems and describes a gradual change that would reduce the cost and increase the convenience. Transitions (“the most obvious innovations,” “This means,” “However, other good reasons,” “Overall”) link parts of the paper. The conclusion appropriately notes that this change will take “a few years” to be accomplished. Sufficient control is demonstrated.

Style Score: 4

Word choice is precise and engaging (“decade,” “factors,” “worthwhile,” “obvious innovations,” “dwindling oil supply,” “pollute,” “produce exhaust,” “save the lives of countless animals,” “recharging stations”). Language and the concerned tone are consistent with the writer’s purpose and the assigned genre. The consistently engaging language and informative details demonstrate an awareness of the audience in all parts of the response. The writer’s voice is clear (“worthwhile invention,” “good reasons exist for using electric cars,” “more places would be forced to change,” “a great thing for the world”). Sentences vary in length and structure (“These include cleaner air, quieter cars, and the use of no gas.” “Less imported oil means fewer oil tankers would be sent across the ocean and less oil spills would occur which would save the lives of countless animals.”).

Conventions Score: 4

The majority of sentences are correct. There are compound and complex structures formed correctly throughout the paper. There are few errors (the first and last sentences of the last body paragraph). Usage is consistently correct, with minor errors (the use of “less” instead of “fewer,” “easier” instead of “more easily”). The writer uses correct internal punctuation, although there are some missing commas before and after dependent clauses. Spelling is consistently correct with few errors (“inovations,” “dwindiling,” “widely,” “definatley”).

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 15

Dear classmates,

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There are many important inventions today. The most important invention to me is the cell phone. People use the cell phone in their everyday lives. They are important for many reasons; to call someone if you need help, write down a memo, and to keep up with the time.

First and most important reason is to call when you need help. Cell phones give the ability to call someone if you need to. Your car might stop on the side of the road, having a cell phone would make it easy to get help.

Second, write down a memo. Instead of writing on a paper or sticking a note on the wall, simply type it in the cell phone and it would save it. This helps not cluttering your walls.

Thirdly, a cell phone keeps the time. Watches break and run out of battery, but cell phones are durable & rechargeable. It is so simple just plugging it in and charges.

All of these topics are reasons why cell phones are the most important invention. It helps getting out of trouble, writing down information, and keeping up with the time.

Paper 15 (page two)

This is why I think cell phones are the most important inventions in today's world.

Your classmate,

Annotations for Paper 15

Ideas Score: 2

The controlling idea (the cell phone is the most important invention) is clear. Supporting ideas are relevant (call for help, save a memo, tell time), but are repeated in the body and conclusion, and developed with few details, some of which are also repeated (“call when you need help,” “call someone if you need to,” “get help”) and others that are clear, but brief (saving the memo on the cell phone reduces clutter, cell phones, unlike watches, are rechargeable). Overall, repetition creates brevity and the writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Ideas.

Organization Score: 2

The organizational plan is formulaic (three supporting ideas are listed in the introduction, repeated in the opening sentences of each body paragraph, and repeated in the conclusion). There is minimal evidence of sequencing (the most important reason is first, with less critical aspects following), and some related ideas are grouped together. Transitions between paragraphs are formulaic (first, second, thirdly), or limited by the brevity of the response (“Instead of writing... simply type it,” “*This* helps,” “All of these”). The conclusion is limited to repetition of the writer’s position and supporting ideas. The writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Organization.

Style Score: 2

Word choice is simple, ordinary, repetitive, and sometimes incorrect (“there everyday lifes,” “if you need,” “might stop,” “helps” “helps getting out of trouble”). The writer uses a few interesting words (“simply type it,” “cluttering,” “durable,” “rechargeable”), but most of the language is simple, which creates an uneven tone and inconsistent voice. The use of “you” and “your” indicates some audience awareness. There is some variety in sentence length and structure. Overall, the writer demonstrates minimal control of the components of Style, but the response falls in the high range of score point “2.”

Conventions Score: 2

The response contains a mixture of correct and incorrect sentences, usage, and mechanics. Simple sentences are generally correct, but errors in sentence formation are frequent (“They are important for many reasons; to call someone...with the time.” First and most important reason is to call when you need help.” “Your car might stop on the side of the road, having a cell phone...get help.” “This helps not cluttering your walls.” “It helps getting out of trouble, writing...the time.” Subject-verb agreement is generally correct, but there are word form errors (“there” for “their,” “lifes” for “lives,” “brake,” for “break”). The writer uses some internal punctuation, spelling is generally correct with few errors (“Insteat,” “Thidly,” “durable,” “gitting”), but few words are difficult. The overall demonstration of competence is limited by the brevity of the response.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

Hello my name is _____ But
my friend or my family call me _____
Well my classmates. I am writing
because of my favorites invention
are power and Gas in today world.

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My first point why power is one of
my favorites invention because we need power.
To look at T.V and to talk on the phone
because now we know teenager love
talk and look at T.V to see what popular

My second reason why power is so important
because nobody can see direction to go. When
the sun is down because the sun have to
go down. Nobody like to be crowd because
you have a hard time trying to get around

Now my first point on gas is why it is one
of my favorites. Because now you know
that teenager will all like to drive. Now
cars have to have gas no gas no mall, out
to eat been with your boyfriend or
girlfriend.

Paper 16 (page two)

My second reason why Gas is one of my Favorites in renton is because if you live in a house or Apartment you need gas you will be cool. In a Apartment no gas on you will be kick out.

So now classmates you have read. My paper tell me what you think. Special my teenager that love to talk on the phone, watch T.V, or drive, go shopping without power or gas you can't do these things

Annotations for Paper 16

Ideas Score: 2

The controlling idea (my favorite inventions are power and gas) is minimally developed. Supporting ideas (appliances, lights need power; gas for driving, homes) are general (“Now cars have to have gas no gas no mall, out to eat been with your boyfriend of girlfriend.”) and sometimes vague (“Nobody like to be crowd because you have a hard time trying to get around,” “in a house or Apartment you need gas you will be cool”). Little focus on the persuasive purpose is evident; the response lacks sufficient information to provide a sense of completeness. Minimal competence is demonstrated.

Organization Score: 2

The paper demonstrates minimal control of the components of Organization. The organizing strategy (introduction-body-conclusion) is not appropriate to the persuasive purpose since it does not frame a clear argument. There is an introduction that announces a topic, followed by reasons that power and gas are the writer’s favorite inventions. Ideas are very loosely grouped into reasons we need power or gas. Transitional words are formulaic and ineffective due to excessive repetition (“first point why power,” “second reason why power,” “first point on gas,” “second reason why Gas,” “So now”). The conclusion repeats the idea that teenagers use power and gas for their favorite activities.

Style Score: 1

Word choice is frequently imprecise or incorrect (“my favorites invention,” “Nobody like to be crowd,” and “out to eat been with your boyfriend or girlfriend”). There is some indication of the writer’s voice (e.g., “We know teenager love talk and look at T.V.”), but what is most noticeable is that the writer does not control language to engage the reader.

Conventions Score: 1

Most of the sentences in this response are incorrect (“Because nobody can see direction to go. When sun is down because the sun have to go down.”). Usage is generally incorrect (“invention are,” “teenager love,” “what popular,” “nobody can see direction,” “Nobody like,” “teenager will all like,” etc.). Mechanics are limited: there is no correct internal punctuation until the final line of the paper; there are some errors in capitalization (“Gas,” “First,” “Because,” “Apartment,”); spelling is simple but correct. Overall, the writer does not demonstrate control of the components of Conventions.

Performance Level: Does Not Meet the Standard

Paper 17

Classmates,

Today's discussion on the new inventions in the world was very interesting. But none of the technology mentioned compares to the importance of today's robots. I know it is a vague topic, but robots all have different abilities that contribute to humans in our everyday life. Robots can help in the medical field, explore the frontiers of Earth and space, and even help with mass production. All these attributes cause the robot to be the most important invention in today's world.

In the medical field, robots are assigned to simple and complex tasks, such as recording and measuring one's heartbeat or operating on a human. Regardless of how easy or hard the assignment, both help to benefit mankind. Robots are also used in chemotherapy ^{where} ~~where~~ they help to give off radiation, which can save a person from cancer. Even prescription and over-the-counter medicine is created by robots. This is just one item that is mass produced by robots.

For a second, think about all the possessions that you own or use. Well, without robots your possessions would be limited and would cost you more money to buy them. Robots help to lower costs on these items. They are able to create a great deal more too than any human could do. It's like Ford's assembly line, only with machines doing the work of humans. This factor helps cut factory risks such as a human breathing in too many fumes or going deaf or blind due to over exposure. Robots taking the place of humans has led to the exploration of new frontiers.

Space and the depths of the Earth have always been a mystery to humans. But our knowledge is increasing with the help of robots, because of their ability to travel to places humans never could.

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Paper 17 (page two)

For example, remember the launch of the Mars Land Rover. Humans could have never gotten to Mars and lived. Space probes have even come close to Jupiter and Saturn. Robots can also help us explore down here on Earth. We can send little submarines down to the ocean's floor and collect samples for scientist to study above the surface.

With all the abilities that a robot is able to perform, it is considered to me to be the most important invention in the world. With this invention, we are able to learn more about ourselves and about the planet we live on. This new knowledge is not even half of what we will be able to learn. There are so many things that are ~~still~~ still a mystery to mankind. But that will all change with the help of robots, the greatest invention of today.

Sincerely yours,

Annotations for Paper 17

Ideas Score: 4

The controlling idea (today's robots are the most important inventions in technology) is well developed and addresses the assigned writing task. Supporting ideas are relevant (medical applications, replacing human workers, exploring places man cannot). The supporting ideas are developed with specific examples and details that address reader concerns about the usefulness of robots (e.g., give off radiation which can save a person from cancer, cut factory risks such as humans breathing in fumes, going deaf or blind, Mars Land Rover and other space probes, little robotic submarines). Not all of the supporting ideas are fully elaborated (e.g., in paragraph two, there is not much elaboration on any of the specific medical functions that robots could help perform).

Organization Score: 5

The overall organizational structure (introduction-supporting reasons-conclusion) is appropriate to the writer's ideas and the assigned genre. The introduction engages the reader with a powerful statement ("none of the technology mentioned compares to the importance of today's robots") and sets the stage ("all these attributes") for the argument that follows. Ideas are grouped logically throughout the paper and presented in a clear sequence from the most critical health applications to exploring distant areas of the earth and space. The writer uses varied transitional elements ("In the medical field," "such as," "Regardless of how easy or hard the assignment," "also," "without robots," "for example," "With all the abilities") to effectively link parts of the paper and ideas within paragraphs. The conclusion is an effective summation of the benefits of robots.

Style Score: 4

Word choice is precise and engaging ("compares to the importance of today's robots," "contribute to humans in our everyday life," "explore the frontiers of Earth," "attributes," "benefit mankind," "factor," "launch," "probes," "still a mystery). The writer's authoritative voice is consistent with the writer's purpose and the assigned genre. The writer demonstrates awareness of the audience in all parts of the paper ("Classmates," "today's discussion," "think about all the possessions that you own or use," "our knowledge," "what we will be able to learn"). Sentences vary in length and structure

Conventions Score: 5

The writer demonstrates a full command of the components of Conventions. Simple, complex, and compound sentences are demonstrated ("This is just one item that is mass produced by robots." "Regardless of how easy or hard the assignment, both help to benefit mankind." "I know it is a vague topic, but robots all have different abilities that contribute to humans in our everyday life."). Subjects and verbs consistently agree, and word forms are correct. Correct usage and mechanics are demonstrated in a variety of contexts. While there are minor errors in Conventions, they are infrequent (fragments beginning with "So" for example) and do not interfere with meaning.

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Paper 18

The digital video disk (DVD) has revolutionized the way people watch movies. They have made the ability to watch movies at your house very easy with menus and a way to pick a specific part and just jump to it. The DVD has made an amazing leap into the future of home entertainment.

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First of all, the DVD has a much more elegant design than the clunky predecessor, the VHS. The old tapes were bigger, hard to store, heavy and just harder to keep track of. With the thin look and feel of the DVD and its case, they're much easier to carry around.

Second, with the DVD it's very easy to fit a lot of information onto a disk than a tape since it's all digital. You have the ability to transfer movies from there to your computer. You may also burn copies for friends or family.

Third, this circular shape has adapted to many other things such as music and games, they're all in disk format now. Even the PSP cartridge is still a form of disk.

In conclusion, the DVD has paved

Paper 18 (page two)

the way for entertainment in almost
all ways. It was put out years ago
and has stood the tests of time. Nothing
that I can think of will be taking
it's place anytime soon. It's just an
amazing invention

Annotations for Paper 18

Ideas Score: 2

This paper has effective focus, but the controlling idea (the DVD is the greatest invention) is minimally developed. Supporting ideas are relevant (elegant design, large storage capacity, and adaptability). The writer includes few details, however, to develop these supporting ideas (e.g., it can be used for music, movies, and video games). Overall, there is not quite enough information in this response to provide a sense of completeness. This example is a “high 2.”

Organization Score: 3

The organizational strategy (introduction, supporting paragraphs, conclusion) is appropriate to the topic and persuasive writing. The introduction is clear and sets the stage for the development that follows. The writer groups related ideas about the DVD’s elegant design, large storage capacity, and adaptability. Ideas within paragraphs follow a generally clear sequence, and the writer includes some transitions to link parts of the paper (e.g., “First of all,” “You may also,” and pronoun substitution like “they” for “DVDs.” The conclusion provides clear closure. Overall, the writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Organization.

Style Score: 3

Word choice is generally effective, and, occasionally, it is precise (“a much more elegant design than the clunky predecessor, the VHS”). There are some lapses into simpler vocabulary (e.g., “very easy to fit a lot of information onto a disk” and “other things”). The tone and writer’s voice are clear, and there is some variation in sentence length and structure. This response is relatively brief; if the writer demonstrated this level of control over a longer essay, the score would likely be higher.

Conventions Score: 3

Most of the sentences in the paper are correct. There is a run on at the beginning of paragraph four. Usage is correct. Most elements of mechanics are correct, with the exception of it’s/its confusion (e.g., “the thin look and feel of the DVD and it’s case”). This paper is an example of a “high 3.” If the writer demonstrates this level of control over a longer essay, the score would likely go higher.

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 19

Dear Classmates,

I believe the greatest technological advance would be the Electric car or earth friendly vehicle. It would not pollute the earth and destroy the ozone layer. It would make gas not needed because the car will run off a battery.

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By using an electric car or earth friendly vehicle, we can stop destroying the ozone layer. If we continue to destroy the ozone layer by polluting, it will get hotter and hotter on earth. Also if you believe in global warming that may eventually happen. We could prevent global warming with these cars. I think there will still be pollution but this would be a great start on cleaning up the earth.

If everyone had an earth friendly car then there would be much less gas used. Gas is a nonrenewable fossil fuel so it would take millions of years to have a lot more. At the rate were going gas will run out in the United States in about 60 years. That could be in all of our lifetimes. Imagine how high the price of gas is going to be in 20 to 30 years, imagine how much in 40 to 50 years. Gas will be at

Paper 19 (page two)

unreal and unbearable prices. Gas will be so high the majority of your money will go to gas, for some people it already does. For all lower to middle class people they will have to spend money on gas to get to work. What if their work is far away. In that sense you may be spending money to get money but what if your spending more than your receiving.

I believe the only problem with earth friendly vehicles is that you would have to spend a lot of money on setting up recharging stations all over the United States. It will cost the government lots of money. Another problem would be people buying earth friendly vehicles because right now they are pretty expensive, but I hope eventually there will be so many earth friendly cars that it won't cost as much.

I think that the earth friendly vehicle is the greatest advancement in technology over the past ten years. I believe it because it will eventually save the ozone layer, save us from using so much gas, and eventually will save us money. I hope that everyone agrees with my opinions, and will buy an earth friendly vehicle.

Annotations for Paper 19

Ideas Score: 4

The writer's controlling idea (the greatest technological advance is the electric car) is well developed and addresses the assigned writing task. Supporting ideas (reduce damage to the ozone layer, reduces dependence on fossil fuels) and elaboration (global warming, cleaner earth, oil is nonrenewable and running out, prices will get higher, costs of an earth friendly vehicle) are relevant to the topic and the assigned genre. The supporting ideas are developed with specific examples and details (continued destruction of the ozone layer will cause greater global warming, using electric cars will be a start to cleaning the earth, fossil fuels may run out in our lifetime and the price will be "unbearable,") that address reader concerns (the cost of the cars and building recharging stations). The writer is consistently focused on the assigned topic, genre, and purpose.

Organization Score: 4

The overall organizational strategy (introduction → supporting ideas → counter-argument → conclusion) is appropriate to the writer's ideas and the assigned genre. In the introduction, the writer sets the stage for the development that follows. Ideas about destruction of the ozone layer, the depletion of fossil fuels, and the problems associated with electric cars are grouped together and logically sequenced across parts of the paper. The writer uses varied transitions ("By using → we can stop," "Also," "that may eventually happen," "If-then," "At the rate were going," "In that sense," "the only problem with," "Another problem") to link parts of the paper. The conclusion does repeat some of the ideas, but provides closure on a positive note of hope.

Style Score: 3

The writer demonstrates sufficient control of the components of Style. Word choice is generally engaging ("earth friendly vehicle," "pollute the earth," "destroy the ozone layer," "nonrenewable fossil fuel," "greatest advancement") with some lapses into simple and ordinary language ("make gas not needed," "alot more," "Gas will be so high," "lots of money"). Language and a concerned tone are generally consistent with the writer's purpose and the assigned genre. The writer demonstrates awareness of the audience ("we can stop," "in all our lifetimes," "Imagine," "What if?"). The writer's voice is clear ("I believe the greatest technological advance," "unreal and unbearable prices," "I hope"). There is some variation in sentence length and structure.

Conventions Score: 4

The writer demonstrates consistent control of the components of Conventions. Sentences are consistently correct with few errors (Imagine how high the price of gas is going to be in 20 to 30 years, imagine how much in 40 to 50 years." "Gas will be so high the majority of your money will go to gas, for some people it already does.") Subjects and verbs agree, and word forms are generally correct. Spelling and punctuation are consistently correct. While there are minor errors in Conventions, they do not interfere with meaning.

Performance Level: Meets the Standard

Paper 20

Dear classmates,

After much consideration and contemplating, I have finally come to the conclusion that the internet is the most important invention in today's world. Computers were first seen in businesses, or even a home, in the early to late 80s. At the time, anyone ~~who~~ ^{who} had seen one, used one, or even had one was absolutely amazed; they had no idea that the computer was going to soon change the world and their every day lives.

When computers were first invented there was no internet, there wasn't even a mouse, but that would quickly change. Most of us have used the internet hundreds of times and we take for granted how much it offers us. Now that we have this amazing tool we're able to bring people together, it's easier to look up and receive information, bring knowledge into the home, and it's not just for educational purposes, but entertainment as well.

Say good-bye to the pony express my friends, because it's no longer needed now that we've been exposed to e-mail. You can write your aunt, who lives in China, an e-mail and in less than an hour she'll have already read it and responded! Not only can you send and receive e-mails and information, but you can instant message too. The internet is a great way to bring people together from, not just the U.S., but across the world!

With this great invention it doesn't take as long to look up

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information. There's less time spent in libraries spending hours looking up information, just to find out they don't have what you need. Now that there's the internet you're able to Google what ever you need, and in seconds be staring at millions of resources. With just a few correct clicks you're at the perfect website. Learning and having knowledge is so important. It's one of the main things that separates us from animals, we as humans are no longer barbaric. The internet allows us to bring knowledge into a classroom or even our own room faster than ever.

Do not even start to think the internet is only for educational purposes, because it's not. Education is very important, but so is having fun. Tired of waiting in long lines at stores? Shop online! Want to look up movie times, but don't have a newspaper? Look them up online! Do you get angry at voice automated machines when booking air plane tickets or registering for car insurance? Don't sweat, you have the net!

So next time you're ~~shopping~~^{shopping} online and screaming at your computer because it's just not fast enough, or you check your e-mail and see fifty messages from your aunt showing you pictures of your not-so-cute-looking baby cousin, just stop and think. Without the internet you wouldn't even be able to shop online and get that cute bathing suit that's sold out in stores; ~~and~~ although you may not appreciate it now, you wouldn't have those pictures of your baby cousin to look at either. Admit it, the internet is the greatest invention and without it we'd all be lost.

Annotations for Paper 20

Ideas Score: 5

The controlling idea (the internet is the most important invention in today's world) is fully developed with specific examples and details throughout the paper. Supporting ideas (email, research, entertainment) are relevant and fully elaborated with specific examples and details (send and receive letters quickly, look up information faster and more successfully than libraries, online convenience for many purchases, checking on times for movies) throughout the paper. The response contains abundant information that fully addresses reader concerns about the impact of the internet on the lives of users (bringing people together, saving time, shopping, resources)

Organization Score: 5

The overall organizational structure (introduction→supporting reasons→summation) is appropriate to the writer's ideas and the assigned genre. The two-paragraph introduction engages the reader with a brief history of the computer and sets the stage for the development that follows. Ideas about the advantages of using the internet are grouped logically throughout the paper and presented in a clear sequence. The writer uses varied transitional elements ("Computers were first seen," "At the time," "When computers were first invented," "Now that," "It's not just for," "Not only can you→but you can," "with this great invention," "It's one of," "next time," "Without the internet") to effectively link parts of the paper and ideas within paragraphs. The conclusion provides closure with an effective summary of the writer's position.

Style Score: 5

The writer demonstrates a full command of the components of Style. Throughout the response, precise and engaging language in carefully crafted phrases ("After much consideration and contemplating, I have finally come to the conclusion," "absolutely amazed," "we take for granted how much it offers us," "Say good-bye to the pony express my friends...we've been exposed to e-mail," "do you get angry at voice automated machines") engage the reader and create a sustained enthusiastic tone and authoritative voice. Sustained attention to the audience is demonstrated by the writer addressing the reader directly throughout the paper. A variety of sentence lengths, structures, and beginnings are used.

Conventions Score: 5

Simple, complex, and compound sentences are demonstrated extensively and are consistently correct. There are few errors ("It's one of the main things that separates us from animals, we as humans are no longer barbaric."). Subjects and verbs agree, and word forms are correct. Correct usage and mechanics are demonstrated in a variety of contexts ("You can write your aunt, who lives in China, an e-mail and in less than an hour she'll have already read it and responded!"). Minor errors (primarily a few missing commas) are infrequent and do not interfere with meaning.

Performance Level: Exceeds the Standard

Score Key – GHSWT Sample Papers

Paper #	Ideas	Org.	Style	Conv.	Performance Level
1	2	3	3	3	Meets the Standard
2	1	1	2	2	Does Not Meet the Standard
3	3	4	3	4	Meets the Standard
4	4	4	4	5	Exceeds the Standard
5	2	2	2	2	Does Not Meet the Standard
6	5	5	5	4	Exceeds the Standard
7	3	3	3	2	Meets the Standard
8	1	1	1	1	Does Not Meet the Standard
9	4	4	5	5	Exceeds the Standard
10	3	3	3	3	Meets the Standard
11	2	2	2	1	Does Not Meet the Standard
12	3	3	3	3	Meets the Standard
13	5	5	5	4	Exceeds the Standard
14	3	3	4	4	Meets the Standard
15	2	2	2	2	Does Not Meet the Standard
16	2	2	1	1	Does Not Meet the Standard
17	4	5	4	5	Exceeds the Standard
18	2	3	3	3	Meets the Standard
19	4	4	3	4	Meets the Standard
20	5	5	5	5	Exceeds the Standard