

2017 AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Librarian of Congress Archibald Macleish (1940, p. 388) once avowed that “Librarians must become active not passive agents of the democratic process.” With renewed interest in promoting civic literacy and deliberative democracy around the country, libraries are poised to grasp this cause, build civic space, and reclaim their traditional role. As Dewey once wrote, “democracy needs to be reborn in each generation and education is its midwife” (1916, p. 22). If libraries are to fulfill their civic mission in the information age, they must find active ways to engage community members in democratic discourse and community renewal. For, as [political scientist Robert] Putnam has stated parsimoniously, “Citizenship is not a spectator sport” (2000, p. 342).

American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU)

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Source B

Calendar of Events. Orland Park Public Library, June 2014. Web. 27 June 2014.

The following is an excerpt from an Illinois public library's calendar of events.

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All Day-Paws to Read Summer Reading Challenge o 9:00 AM-10:00 Books Before Kindergarten! o 1:00 PM-Paws to Read Summer Reading Kick-off Celebration! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All Day-Junior Page Volunteer Program Registration Begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9:30 AM-Stories at the Village of OP Sportsplex o 10:00 AM-Terrific Tales for Toddlers o 11:00 AM-Babies & Books o 1:00 PM-Once Upon a Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9:30 AM-Orland Township/Orland Cultural Center Senior Visits o 7:00 PM-Pilates with Melanie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10:00 AM-Toddler Art o 11:00 AM-Once Upon a Time o 6:30 PM-Night Owls Storytime o 7:00 PM-Microsoft Excel 2010 Part I o 7:00 PM Writer's Group for Adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9:30 AM-Orland Township Senior Drop-in Visit o 10:00 AM-Stories at the Farmer's Market o 4:00 PM-(E=MC2) EnvironMental Club 2 o 6:15 PM-Teen Inc. o 7:00 PM-Animal Figurine Craft Night o 7:00 PM-Cozy Corner Bedtime Storytime o 7:00 PM-Meet the Artist - Kathleen Garness - Cancelled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All Day-July Computer Volunteers Registration Begins o 10:00 AM-Bright Starts Family Storytime
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2:00 PM-Sunday Film Series: Edward, My Son 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9:30 AM-Nursing Home Visits o 7:00 PM-Friends of the Orland Park Public Library Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9:30 AM-Nursing Home Visits o 10:00 AM-Terrific Tales for Toddlers o 11:00 AM-Babies & Books o 1:00 PM-Once Upon a Time o 6:30 PM-Family Dance Party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10:00 AM-Remember When with Autumn Leaves o 7:00 PM-Pilates with Melanie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10:00 AM-Music Makers o 11:00 AM-Once Upon a Time o 2:00 PM-Corduroy the Bear o 6:30 PM-Night Owls Storytime o 7:00 PM-Canine Basic Obedience Class o 7:00 PM-Microsoft Excel 2010 Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10:00 AM-Stories at the Farmer's Market o 11:30 AM-Library Ebooks for Kindle o 2:00 PM-Dig Those Divas Storytime o 4:00 PM-(E=MC2) EnvironMental Club 2 o 7:00 PM-Book Appetit o 7:00 PM-Cozy Corner Bedtime Storytime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10:00 AM-Bright Starts Family Storytime

Source C

Shank, Jenny. “What Is the Role of Libraries in the Age of E-Books and Digital Information?” *MEDIASHIFT: Your Guide to the Digital Media Revolution*. Public Broadcasting Service, 1 May 2012. Web. 27 June 2014.

The following is excerpted from an article on the Web site of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), the largest public-funded network in the United States.

A recent Pew Research Center report uncovered a digital divide in the use of e-books. People less likely to use e-books include Hispanics, those without a high school diploma, the unemployed, rural Americans, and those with household incomes of less than \$30,000.

[Michael] Crandall* said, “Without libraries, the division would be even greater, since for many people they serve as the only access point for digital information and services. Our study of library computer use found that for 22 percent of library computer users (age 14 and older), the library was their only source for access to computers and the Internet. This would suggest that similar restricted access would apply to e-books without libraries in the mix.”

[Jorge] Martinez noted that libraries are finding creative ways to meet demand despite budget challenges. “In Philadelphia they are placing equipment and trainers in community organizations to make these valuable services available to their patrons at these sites, even when their regular locations are closed due to budget cutbacks. In other places, they have recreated the old bookmobile as mobile digital centers that take training, computers and Internet access to parts of their communities where there are no [library] buildings.”

A recent Op-Ed put out by the Knight, Gates, and MacArthur foundations cited several other innovative uses of library resources:

“Bookmobiles have been supplemented by mobile computer labs—visiting minority communities in St. Paul to teach digital literacy classes in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali, for example. In Dover, Mass., the library has installed QR codes around town that link signs at the market and playground to community information and services. Seattle Public Library offers live chats with librarians 24 hours a day getting answers to reference questions and live homework help.”

It also mentioned an initiative at the main Chicago library called YOUmedia that “lets any teen with a city library card have in-house access to computers plus video and audio recording equipment to create their own content with the help of a mentor. At another YOUmedia space in Miami, workshops help teens think critically and creatively about their lives, by teaching them to publish an autobiographical digital story, or to visualize their favorite books.”

[Samantha] Becker said, “Libraries are definitely in the middle of all this [digital] action, both working very hard to provide access to e-reading materials, as well as helping patrons enter into the e-reading marketplace by exposing them to e-reading devices through lending and device petting zoos and helping them learn to use new devices in classes and one-on-one sessions with librarians.”

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Crandall said his study found that two-thirds of the library computer users asked a librarian for help in using the technology. “The ability to use the new technology may seem intuitive to many,” he said, “but clearly for many others it is not, and having a community resource that is able to help people understand how to use digital technology and information, and why they might want to use it to improve the quality of their lives is something that libraries have taken on as a transformation of their traditional mission.”

Martinez said the Knight Foundation’s library funding will focus on “innovative projects and leaders that help to show what the library of tomorrow should be.”

* Crandall, Martinez, and Becker are library and information science researchers. Crandall and Becker are at the University of Washington; Martinez is with the Knight Foundation.

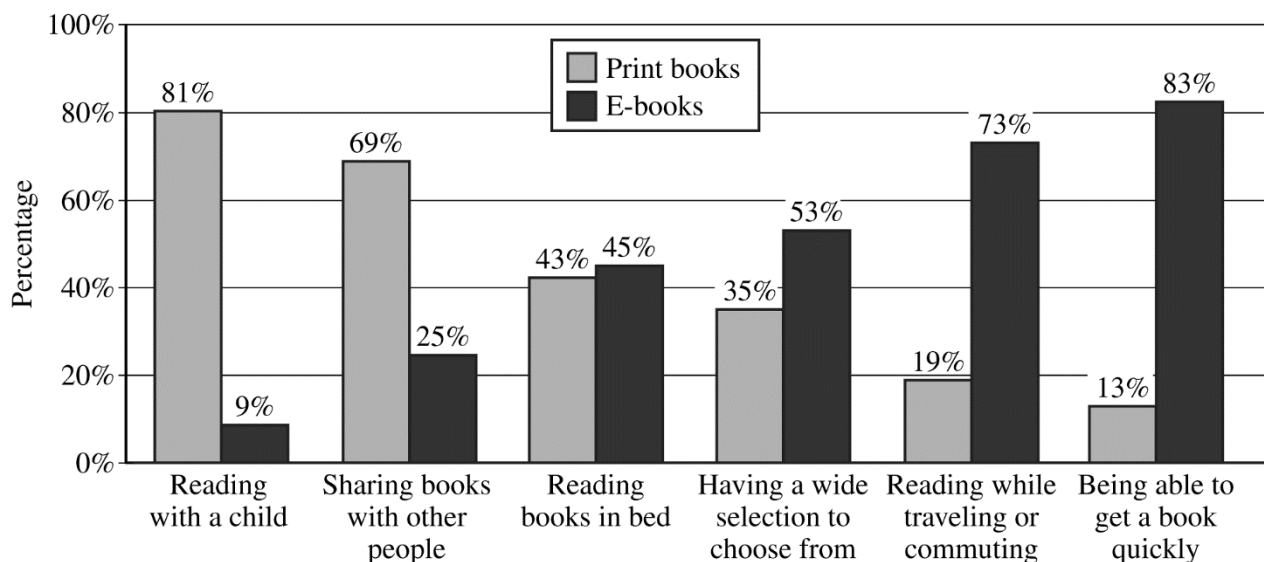
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Source D

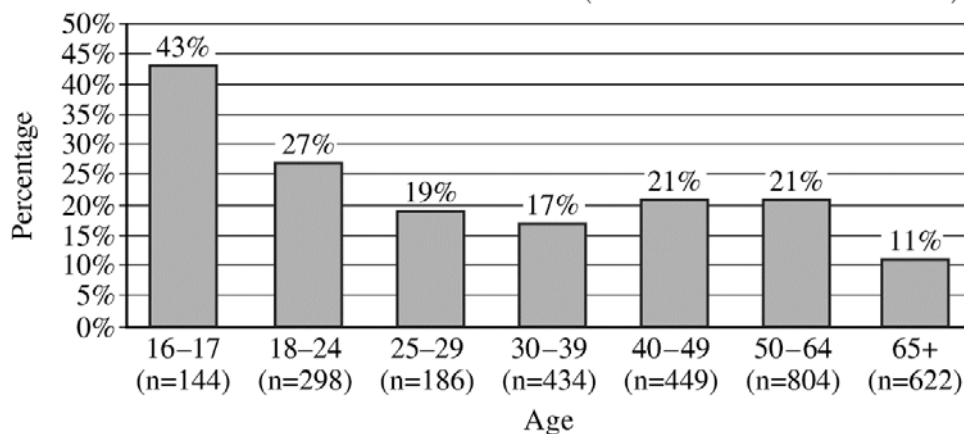
Rainie, Lee. "Libraries Transformed: Research on the Changing Role of Libraries." *Pew Research Internet Project*. Pew Research Center, 23 October 2012. Web. 27 June 2014.

The following charts were published in a report by the Pew Charitable Trust, a national research organization.

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS AGE 16 AND OVER WHO HAVE READ BOTH E-BOOKS AND PRINT BOOKS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS



GOT HELP FROM A LIBRARIAN (AMONG LIBRARY USERS)



In this chart, n represents the number of people who were surveyed in each age group.

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Source E

Siegler, M. G. "The End of The Library." *TechCrunch*.
TechCrunch, 13 October 2013. Web. 12 May 2016.

The following is excerpted from an article posted on the Web site of an online publisher of technology industry news.

It's hard for me to even remember the last time I was in a library. I was definitely in one this past summer in Europe—on a historical tour. Before that, I think it was when I was in college. But even then, ten years ago, the internet was replacing the need to go to a library. And now, with e-books, I'm guessing the main reason to go to a library on a college campus is simply because it's a quiet place to study. . . .

The point is, times have changed. And things continue to change with increasing speed. So where does that leave libraries?

Undoubtedly, some of the largest, most prestigious libraries will live on. But the people lurking in them may increasingly look like Gandalf in the bowels of Minas Tirith looking through the scrolls of Isildur.*

Meanwhile, some other spaces currently known as libraries may live on as cultural and/or learning centers. Others like the notion of using libraries as some sort of newfangled technology demo pits. Tablets over here! 3D printers over here! One article even likened them to Apple Stores. . . .

All of these prospects for the future of libraries sound nice on paper (figuratively, not literally, of course). But I'm also worried that some of us are kidding ourselves. These theoretical places are not libraries in the ways that any of us currently think of libraries.

That's the thing: it seems that nearly everyone is actually in agreement that libraries, as we currently know them, are going away. But no one wants to admit it because calling for the end of libraries seems about as popular as the Dewey Decimal System.

It's almost like some people want to interpret anyone talking about the end of libraries as talking about the end of learning—and, by extension, the end of civilization. The reality is that learning has evolved. It's now easier than ever to look something up. And the connected world has far better access to basically infinitely more information than can be found in even the largest library—or all of them *combined*. This is all a good thing. A very good thing. Maybe the *best* thing in the history of our civilization. Yet we retain this romantic notion of libraries as cultural touchstones. Without them, we're worried we'll be lost and everything will fall apart.

So we're coming up with all these other ways to try to keep these buildings open. Co-working spaces! Media labs. Art galleries? We'll see. But it's impossible to see a world where we keep libraries open simply to pretend they still serve a purpose for which they no longer serve.

I'm sorry I have to be the one to write this. I have nothing but fond memories of libraries from my youth. Of course, I also have fond memories of bookstores. And we all know how that has turned out. . . .

* Gandalf is a fictional wizard and Isildur a fictional king in J. R. R. Tolkien's "Middle-earth" stories and novels. Minas Tirith is a fictional city and castle located in Middle-earth.

Techcrunch.com

Source F

American Library Association. *The 2012 State of America's Libraries Report*. American Library Association, April 2012. Web. 27 June 2014.

The following is excerpted from a report by the American Library Association.

Libraries persevere through cumulative, ongoing funding cuts

Overall, funding for public libraries continues to be suppressed in 2011–2012 budgets, with 5% more states reporting decreased state funding for public libraries than in 2010–2011. The cumulative impact of cuts to public library funding at the state and local levels since 2008–2009 has led public libraries to continuous budget-rebalancing and tough choices regarding continuity of services.

An online survey of chief officers of state library agencies in November 2011 elicited responses from 49 of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Among the findings:

- Twenty-three states reported cuts in state funding for public libraries from 2010–2011 to 2011–2012. For three years in a row, more than 40% of participating states have reported decreased public library funding.
- Only two states reported increased funding, but one did so with a caveat. This state had experienced two cuts the previous year, followed by a legislative action to reset its program to a lower funding level.
- Seven states and the District of Columbia do not provide state funding.
- Sixteen states reported there had been no change in funding from 2010–2011 to 2011–2012.
- Only nine states anticipated decreased funding for 2012–2013 — 21% of last year's respondents, compared with 37% of the previous year's. That may be the light at the end of the tunnel . . . or a train coming.

Used with permission from the American Library Association. www.ala.org

Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes.

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

The passage below is the opening to a speech made in 1960 by American journalist and politician Clare Boothe Luce to journalists at the Women’s National Press Club. In this speech, Luce went on to criticize the tendency of the American press to sacrifice journalistic integrity in favor of the perceived public demand for sensationalist stories. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-developed essay, analyze *how* Luce uses this introduction to prepare the audience for her message. Support your analysis of her rhetoric with specific references to the text.

Line I am happy and flattered to be a guest of honor on
this always exciting and challenging occasion. But
looking over this audience tonight, I am less happy
5 than you might think and more challenged than you
could know. I stand here at this rostrum invited to
throw rocks at you. You have asked *me* to tell *you*
what’s wrong with *you*—the American press. The
subject not only is of great national significance but
also has, one should say, infinite possibilities—and
10 infinite perils to the rock thrower.

For the banquet speaker who criticizes the
weaknesses and pretensions, or exposes the follies
and sins, of his listeners—even at their invitation—
does not generally evoke an enthusiastic—no less
15 a friendly—response. The delicate art of giving
an audience hell is always one best left to the
Billy Grahams and the Bishop Sheens.*

But you are an audience of journalists. There is no
audience anywhere who should be more bored—
20 indeed, more revolted—by a speaker who tried to
fawn on it, butter it up, exaggerate its virtues, play
down its faults, and who would more quickly see
through any attempt to do so. I ask you only to
remember that I am not a volunteer for this subject
25 tonight. You asked for it!

For what is good journalism all about? On a
working, finite level it is the effort to achieve
illuminating candor in print and to strip away cant.
It is the effort to do this not only in matters of state,
30 diplomacy, and politics but also in every smaller
aspect of life that touches the public interest or
engages proper public curiosity. It is the effort to
explain everything from a summit conference to why

the moon looks larger coming over the horizon than it
35 does when it has fully risen in the heavens. It is the
effort, too, to describe the lives of men—and women
—big and small, close at hand or thousands of miles
away, familiar in their behavior or unfamiliar in
their idiosyncrasies. It is—to use the big word—the
40 pursuit of and the effort to state the truth.

No audience knows better than an audience of
journalists that the pursuit of the truth, and the
articulation of it, is the most delicate, hazardous,
exacting, and *inexact* of tasks. Consequently, no
45 audience is more forgiving (I hope) to the speaker
who fails or stumbles in his own pursuit of it. The
only failure this audience could never excuse in any
speaker would be the failure to try to tell the truth, as
he sees it, about his subject.

50 In my perilous but earnest effort to do so here
tonight, I must begin by saying that if there is much
that is wrong with the American press, there is also
much that is right with it.

I know, then, that you will bear with me, much as it
55 may go against your professional grain, if I ask you to
accept some of the good with the bad—even though it
may not make such good copy for your newspapers.

For the plain fact is that the U. S. daily press today
is not inspiringly good; it is just far and away the best
60 press in the world.

* Billy Graham, an American Christian evangelist, and Fulton John Sheen, an American Catholic archbishop, both became renowned for their religious oratory. Their speeches were widely broadcast on radio and television.

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Question 3

Suggested time—40 minutes.

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

The passage below is an excerpt from *Empire of Illusion* by Chris Hedges. Read the passage carefully. Then write an essay in which you develop a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” Use appropriate, specific evidence to illustrate and develop your position.

The most essential skill in political theater and a consumer culture is artifice. Political leaders, who use the tools of mass propaganda to create a sense of faux intimacy with citizens, no longer need to be competent, sincere, or honest. They need only to appear to have these qualities. Most of all they need a story, a personal narrative. The reality of the narrative is irrelevant. It can be completely at odds with the facts. The consistency and emotional appeal of the story are paramount. Those who are best at deception succeed. Those who have not mastered the art of entertainment, who fail to create a narrative or do not have one fashioned for them by their handlers, are ignored. They become “unreal.”

An image-based culture communicates through narratives, pictures, and pseudo-drama.

STOP

END OF EXAM