

**2006 AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

From talk radio to television shows, from popular magazines to Web blogs, ordinary citizens, political figures, and entertainers express their opinions on a wide range of topics. Are these opinions worthwhile? Does the expression of such opinions foster democratic values?

Write an essay in which you take a position on the value of such public statements of opinion, supporting your view with appropriate evidence.

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

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The score should reflect a judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole. Students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the essay as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional flaws in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 2.

- 9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for 8 essays and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument or demonstrate particularly impressive control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 respond to the prompt **effectively**, taking a position on the value of public statements of opinion and developing the position with appropriate and convincing evidence. The prose demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

- 7 Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 essays but provide a more complete argument or demonstrate a more mature prose style.

6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 respond to the prompt **adequately**, taking a position on the value of public statements of opinion and developing the position with appropriate evidence. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

- 5 Essays earning a score of 5 take a position on the value of public statements of opinion and support the position with evidence. These essays may, however, provide uneven, inconsistent, or limited arguments and/or evidence. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 respond to the prompt **inadequately**. They may have difficulty taking a position on the value of public statements of opinion. The evidence used may be insufficient. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas but may suggest immature control of writing.

- 3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in taking a position on the value of public statements of opinion and supporting the position with appropriate evidence. The essays may show less control of writing.

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Question 3 (continued)

2 Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in taking a position on the value of public statements of opinion and supporting the position with appropriate evidence. These essays may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate evidence. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing.

- 1** Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their argument, or weak in their control of language.
- 0** Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.
- Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.