

Question 3

Sample Identifier: 3A**Score: 1-4-1****A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1**

- The response offers a defensible position in the final paragraph: “These two forces [optimism and pessimism] working together is a blessing, and it has granted us the ability to grow as people and as a society.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 4

- The response provides specific evidence to support all claims in its line of reasoning. To support its claim, “The relationship between optimism and pessimism is also strongly explored in more scientific fields of study, permitting more breakthroughs and innovation than would be possible if these forces worked against each other,” the response includes an example of macroeconomics, quantum physics, and “a rocket launch.”
- The commentary consistently and clearly explains how the evidence supports the line of reasoning, such as when it states, “if optimism and pessimism spoke over each other instead of with each other, we would not be able to see both of them and decide whether or not to launch someone into space. Fortunately, in 1969 the words of optimism held more validity and likeliness, and we have now has twelve men walk on the lunar surface, an idea once believed to be futuristic and impossible.”

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 1

- The response demonstrates sophistication of thought by making effective rhetorical choices that consistently strengthen the force and impact of the argument. In paragraph 4, for example, the response includes an effective metaphor to articulate a complex idea: “Optimism and pessimism are misunderstood friends, with the complicated task of coming to an agreement where one is stronger, but modified by the other.”

Sample Identifier: 3B**Score: 1-4-0****A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1**

- The response offers a defensible position in the paragraph 1: “Gorman's claim that optimism and pessimism can coexist in the same person at the same time is valid, as people *can* feel both emotions at the same time and pessimism can enhance optimism.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 4

- The response provides specific evidence to support all claims in its line of reasoning. For example, “Martin Luther King Jr. is a great example of this. King, despite all the outward opposition he faced and inward pessimism he must have felt, did not let these voices determine his actions. In fact, he let them make his optimism stronger. He shared his hope in

his famous *I Have a Dream* speech, where he expressed his optimism that his children would grow up in a world without segregation where they could be anything they wanted to be.”

- The commentary consistently and clearly explains how the evidence supports the line of reasoning, such as when it states “They knew that things would be hard, and they knew that they were starting an inevitable war that would very likely lead to their execution. Yet, they let their pessimism fuel them. They let it fuel them to do everything they could to prevent their cause from dying. Their pessimism told them that their cause would die, and their optimism told them that there would be a better future. They chose to let their pessimism fuel their optimism by choosing to fight, so that their cause would not die, for a better future.”

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 0

- The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.

Sample Identifier: 3C

Score: 1-3-0

A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1

- The response offers a defensible position paragraph 5: “Optimism and pessimism are not opposites of each other and there are multiple situations one can be better then the other, yet it is important to remember that not every situation can be met with optimism, not every can should be met with pessimism, and being able to find that balance is essential in figuring out how to deal with challenging situations.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 3

- The response provides specific evidence to support all three claims in its line of reasoning. For example, to support its claim, “Not every situation can be met with optimism” and allowing for some of the negative to seep in can help find a solution to a problem, the response states, “One example of this is in the book *The Lost Hero*, one of the main characters, Leo, has an issue that he tries to solve with an invention, but only for it not to work repeatedly.”
- The commentary explains how some of the evidence supports claim, such as when it explains that Leo’s issue “has remained unsolved until he was willing to look at it from a less optimistic view. This evidence shows that not all problems can be met with optimism and that looking at issues from a negative point of view can help solve problems rather than continue to fail.”
- However, some commentary does not effectively support a claim. In paragraph 3, the response supports the claim, but the commentary provided for the evidence does not clearly connect to the claim that “optimism and pessimism are not opposites of each other.” This is seen when it states, “This evidence prove that even having just a little optimism can help with a person's well-being and let them learn to have a more positive outlook on life.”

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 0

- The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.

Sample Identifier: 3D**Score: 1-2-0****A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1**

- The response offers a defensible position in sentence 1: “Gormans claim that optimism should be viewed in conversation with pessimism, rather than opposed to it is invalid.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 2

- The response provides relevant evidence. Some evidence is specific; for example, it states, “I had a friend who is a complete pessimist.” However, it also includes broad generalities, such as, “There are many people who are optimistic about everything. They are able to stand strong in the face of adversity because they know that there is always a way out.”
- The response provides commentary that explains how some of the evidence relates to the argument, such as, “My friend always thought that he was completely done for after something bad happened to him. He was convinced that there was no coming back ever. He would fold over and give up when he didn't get what he wanted. This belief cause him to constantly fail at everything he did, and now he barely comes to school, has no real future, and I am no longer friends with him because of his pessimism.” However, it does not connect the evidence to a claim, so a line of reasoning is not clearly established.
- Instead, the response makes one point well (“Constantly things in a negative light will lead to someone giving up”) but does not make multiple supporting claims, such as in paragraph 2.

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 0

- The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.

Sample Identifier: 3E**Score: 1-1-0****A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1**

- The response offers a defensible position in sentence 4: “I believe optimism and pessimism are completely different and share ntohing similar.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 1

- The response provides general evidence that tends to focus on summary: “Pessimism is better for predicting things that you know could go wrong ' falling, frustration, sadness, failing' these cause pessimism to come through and take over someone but it shouldn't be seen as negative.”
- The commentary summarizes the evidence, such as “pushing myself to do better helped me stay focused and push through.” However, it does not explain how the evidence supports the argument.

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 0

- The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation

Sample Identifier: 3F**Score: 1-0-0****A. Thesis (0-1 points): 1**

- The response offers a defensible position in sentence 2: “I also agree with her because in a way she is saying your not always gonna be postive everyday which not always a bad thing.”

B. Evidence and Commentary (0-4 points): 0

- The response rephrases the prompt with no evidence.

C. Sophistication (0-1 points): 0

- The response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.