



English I Writing

Expository Scoring Guide Spring 2012

English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the information in the box below.

The digital audio player, also known as the MP3 player, first became available to the general public in 1996. Unlike the compact disc player, this technology did not require that music be stored on separate discs. MP3 players have now become the dominant medium for listening to music.

Think about the new technologies that people use in everyday life.

Write an essay explaining the effect of one new technology on people's lives.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer’s response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

COMPOSITION #3

"That's bad", "Mom come look at this on T.V." Why do people have to text and drive it only hurts themselves. But what if your friend is talking and you want to respond back or they think your mad or ignoring them. "Well I think they should wait because if you don't you will run up like a pancake in the car." I wish the technology could make a device where you don't have to look at your phone to read the message it could read it for you. Then you wouldn't have to worry about crashing or driving off the road. "The world would be so much safer if it did, I think it should."

Score Point 1

In this very limited performance, the writer provides no thesis statement and uses a narrative strategy—a dialogue between a mother and child—to present ideas. The result is an essay with an organizing structure that is inappropriate to the explanatory task. Although most ideas are generally related to the topic of technology, the absence of a functional organizational structure causes the writer to include ideas that are extraneous to the specified task: to explain the effect of one new technology. These problems cause the essay to lack direction and coherence.

COMPOSITION #3

There is new technology that came out last year in 2010 and it was the new iPad. The iPad is kinda of the same as a iPod or a cellphone, but it was big and better. It can go anywhere with people. It's also can go on the internet and you can plan stuff. The technology that effective people like help's them with anything they need to know about or if they are lost or something like that. Technology also tell you were to go and you can do anything just almost like a cellphone. I said that technology help's in some ways. But it can be bad for people they are getting lazy and not doing anything that much. But I can said that technology is great, but it can be bad to.

Score Point 1

In this example of a very limited writing performance, the writer attempts to support a weak thesis (technology is great, but it can be bad to) by providing a few examples of the advantages and disadvantages of the new iPad and technology in general (can go on the internet and you can plan stuff; it can be bad for people they are getting lazy and not doing anything that much). The development of these examples, however, is weak because most of the information is vague and lacks explanation or clarification. The result is an essay that is insubstantial and ineffective.

COMPOSITION #3
TECHNOLOGIE! every one has to know that
word if not gooder it on your piece of technolige
see that thing you call a computer or
hello you cell phone thats all modern
technolige you dont need to write
letters no more you can text, email,
Face chat, Facebook, any thing. What
many people dont know is how that
piece of technolige change our live
complethly, how about I tell you lets
go back in time for a litle, your at
home munching on a carrot when a
robber breaks through your window what's
the first thing you do? I hope you run
but as your running your doing what
dialing all on your cell phone oop's you
cant no cell phones so then what now
you got to jump scream kick burn
technolige saved your life because
that cell phone can be tracked by satellights
and track you to go send the police to
your front door you dont even have to
talk you see their are many more reasons
that technolige has changed our lives but
that was the most important. so you think about it
think how technolige has changed your life!

Score Point 1

In this very limited writing performance, the writer provides some relevant ideas and even an acceptable hypothetical situation to develop the thesis that technology has changed people's lives. There are, however, serious and persistent errors in spelling, grammar, and usage, which create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and interfere with meaning. The writer's uncontrolled use of sentences, including the lack of sentence boundaries, also significantly limits the effectiveness of the writing. In addition, the writer's word choice does not establish a tone appropriate for expository writing.

COMPOSITION #3

The mp3 player has been an effect on everyday life. it has been great entertainment to the world mostly teens. but one other technology that has effected everyday life are cars. Cars are everywhere! different colors, shapes, sizes, but its expensive too! gas keeps rising and cars are getting more expensive as well. but it helps, up get to where we need to be everyday. i'm glad that they are around.

Score Point 1

The writer presents two examples of technology that have an effect on everyday life: mp3 players and cars. However, because the thesis statement is missing, it is not clear what overall point the writer is trying to make or what the ideas in the essay are meant to support. In fact, without a thesis statement, the writer's movement from the mp3 player to the car section becomes a shift in focus. Overall, the vague development and lack of coherence cause this essay to be very limited.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's thesis statement is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

COMPOSITION #3

Technology is what turns the world—almost literally. With technology, we can find out what turns the world, how it turns, and maybe one day affect the way it turns. Technology is our learning process that improves our lives day to day. For example, the discovery and control of fire improved the human race so much and so drastically over so many centuries, that we went from cavemen to today in a few millennia. Fire cooked food, reducing chances of sickness; fire created light and warmth during the night; and fire allowed us to shape metals and materials to help us construct new things. Without the simplest technology of a flaming, glorified stick, we'd still be chimpanzees. The simplest technology can make a difference on us, even today.

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer presents the thesis that “Technology is our learning process that improves our lives day to day.” This thesis is general, while the focus of the essay—fire—is specific. For this reason, the links between the thesis and the development are not always clear. For example, “our learning process” is not clearly connected to the fact that “fire created light and warmth during the night.” In addition, the writer’s ideas about how fire has improved our lives are only briefly presented in the form of a list.

COMPOSITION #3

These days, almost every person in this world has cell phones. It is an addiction for this generation. Not only parents, but even children are using them. It is slowly becoming a disaster. Cell phones have advantages and disadvantages, both at the same time. Advantages like texting and talking all the time, unlimited. Got so many new apps. From games to Facebook, got internet. If you want, you can even do your homework and projects on your phone. It has gotten like a million advantages. But it has gotten many disadvantages too. Children, especially teen are getting more addicted to it. They don't know of how harmful it can be. Children and teens are slowly forgetting what family is and like to live alone, stay in their rooms for 24 hours. Are moving towards bad company and much more. All I am saying is that use your cellphone but to a limit.

Score Point 2

The writer's thesis is that cell phones have both advantages and disadvantages. Some development is provided in the form of briefly listed advantages and disadvantages associated with cell phone use. Sentences, however, are awkward and only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay. In addition, there are some distracting grammar and usage errors that create minor disruptions in the fluency of the writing (It has *gotten* like a million advantages. But it has *gotten* many disadvantages too). Overall, this writer demonstrates only a partial command of sentence boundaries and language conventions. The essay represents a basic writing performance.

COMPOSITION #3

Technology

The mp3 player I think is one of the greatest inventions of all time. You can take it anywhere, they mostly have good battery life, and you can put lots of songs on it. If we didn't have mp3 players we wouldn't be able to listen to our favorite music when we wanted.

I think that we would still be listening to CD's, Tapes, or recorded music.

The Television is also a great invention. You can hook up your computer to it, put internet on it, and pictures on it. If we didn't have Televisions we wouldn't probably get news and watch our favorite Shows. We would probably miss all of the football games, basketball, baseball and soccer games. So I think they are both great things added to our technology.

Score Point 2

The writer discusses two technological devices: the mp3 player and the television. The writer provides minimal development by giving examples of what can be done with each device as well as what the consequences would be if the devices did not exist. The ideas included in the essay are clearly related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is very weak. The lack of an effective thesis interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay, preventing the writer from showing a strong relationship between the two examples. Overall, however, even with the weak thesis, the essay is developed and controlled well enough for this essay to be considered a basic writing performance.

COMPOSITION #3

Technology helps all of us get through every-day life. If it weren't for technology you wouldn't be reading this right now. Sad thing is though, so many different technologies are going unnoticed. Centuries ago people wrote with different paint like substances that made it nearly impossible to erase. With the invention of the pencil people began writing with so much ease. The pencil helps students get through their lives because it ensures that whatever they write, they don't have to worry about making permanent mistakes.

I'm a student too, and I guess you can call this my testimonial towards all pencils. Since education has advanced, so have the materials or technology. I am just going to say that the first few things I think about when I hear the word 'school' are books and pencils. They are needed practically every day of the school year. Whether you are taking notes or just taking a test, pencils will be there to help you.

Score Point 2

The writer singles out the pencil as the unnoticed technology that "helps all of us get through everyday life." In the first paragraph, the writer begins to develop the idea that pencils allow people to erase their mistakes. This development, though, essentially ends there. In paragraph two, the writer focuses on why she's writing about the pencil; there is little additional development to add substance or support her thesis. Overall, the essay remains superficial, and although mostly well written, the piece represents a basic writing performance.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. Most ideas are related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

COMPOSITION #3

One new technology that has had a great effect on people's lives is the cell phone. The cell phone started out just being a phone that you can take anywhere and call people. Now, the phone has evolved into a device that has the ability not only to call people, but to text, play games, use apps, and access the internet, as well as doing many other amazing and helpful jobs. Personally, I have a Flip phone, and all it does is talk and text. However, I still see the impacts of the "smart" cell phones everyday. For example, in my Health class my teacher will tell us to take out our phones and search certain things on the internet. I can't, but the ones that can benefit immensely from it. The cell phone has helped out life in many more ways, such as using it as a GPS, or calling your parents when they forget to pick you up from school, or even just playing games on it while in the waiting room in the doctor's office. This new technology is extremely beneficial to us in our lives everyday, and is an amazing innovation.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer uses the first and last sentence of the essay to establish a clear thesis statement focused on the beneficial features of the cell phone. The writer establishes the evolution of the cell phone from portable telephone to multimedia tool. The writer then provides a meaningful transition to a thoughtful personal example of the value of "smart" phones, which adds some substance to the essay. In the last part of the essay, the writer lists additional specific benefits of modern day cell phones. Overall, the essay is focused and coherent, and the writer demonstrates a good control of sentences and conventions.

COMPOSITION #3

Technology advancements certainly change the mind-sets and the lifestyle of many people of the twenty-first century. One great example of technology advancement that changes the lives of many avid book readers is the digital online book such as the Nook or the Kindle. This modern technology reduces the amount of paper needed to produce a book by being available via kilobytes. It further reduces the fuel consumption that a trip to the bookstore or the library may require.

These digital books ^{also} make reading easier and more enjoyable to readers of all ages. It also lets the user have access to the Internet. Among many of its advantages these digital books are lightweight and can be read under the glaring sunlight. This enables the user to use this device anywhere they like.

In conclusion, the Nook or the Kindle give many readers a great time enjoying their favorite book and simultaneously reducing the world's landfill. That certainly puts us in a "win-win" situation.

Score Point 3

The writer establishes a clear thesis statement (One great example of technology advancement that changes the lives of many avid book readers is the digital online book such as the Nook or the Kindle). The writer sufficiently supports this thesis by developing the ideas that the reading devices are environmentally friendly and that they are much more convenient than traditional books. The inclusion of details and examples that are specific and appropriate adds some substance to the essay and demonstrates that the writer has a good understanding of the expository writing task. The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled, and the writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. This essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

COMPOSITION #3

We live in a fast-paced, high-tech world that is expanding technologically every single day. Words can't emphasize enough how quickly and effectively technologies have effected our daily life.

A good example would be computers along w/ internet. 50 years ago people didn't even know what they were. The telecommunications was poor and therefore people's activities and communications were extremely limited. Think back to even longer ago, when people had to pass messages through a person. How difficult is that? Even if the person transmitting the message has relatively good memory, mistakes were definitely made on a daily basis. Plus, it might take days to get the message to the receiver.

But look at us now. Ways to communicate are there for us to choose. We can just sit in our house and write an email to whoever we want. Near or far, as long as they also have internet. Now that's way more effective and quick. No matter where the person is, we can reach them in a short time, which cancels the concept of distance decay in many places.

Although new technologies also brought concerns and arguments, I personally think they are generally very helpful to our lives now because they have made it so much more convenient.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer uses the last paragraph to establish a clear thesis. The writer employs a compare/contrast organizational strategy to develop support for the thesis. The writer first examines the limitations of telecommunications technology from fifty years ago or longer and then contrasts it with the technology available today. This organizational strategy is adequately suited to the expository task and helps to clarify the essay. The details and examples the writer uses are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the piece. Although some usage and sentence boundary errors are evident, they create few disruptions in the fluency of the writing and do not affect the clarity of the essay.

COMPOSITION #3

"Hey, get down here, it's time to do your chores!" "Okay, let me finish this game on the computer!" Does this sound familiar to you? It's because of technology that we have become a lazy, lazy society, where having fun is surfing the web or shooting each other on video games, rather than playing football, tag, soccer, hide "n" seek, etc. I feel that technology is what is pulling us away from who we are. Americans are the most spoiled country in the world, next to China. Our day consists of getting up, going to work, working in a nice airconditioned area, coming home and jumping right on our new little gadgets. While on the other hand, other countries such as Saudi Arabia, work all day, all day, not just eight hours, come home enjoy their family time and do it all over again the next day. Technology is destroying our family values, we are slowly growing apart from each other, until someday we will all be independant from our families. Though technology is very usefull and fun to play with, our whole country shouldn't be infested with just that. There is a time to use it and a time to stop. Technology is like a cigarette; once you have it, it is almost impascible to step away from.

Score Point 3

The writer begins the essay with a real life scenario meant to illustrate how technology has disrupted our lives. The writer then establishes a clear thesis statement ("I feel that technology is what is pulling us away from who we are"). The writer develops this thesis through a compare/contrast strategy to show how technology has infiltrated and weakened Americans' work ethic as opposed to those who live in Saudi Arabia. However, the Saudi Arabia example is only minimally developed. The writer then returns to a discussion of the loss of family values as a result of technology. While the details and examples are appropriate and specific, the writer's transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections could be stronger. Overall, the essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. All ideas are strongly related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer’s train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

COMPOSITION #3

Today's society is almost completely taken by technology, and new electronics being released. iPods and Zunes have greatly changed the way record labels in the music industry have to go about selling their artists' albums and songs. They release less and less CDs as the years go by and they might soon become fully obsolete. People today buy off of several online stores the main one being iTunes. Songs are no longer put in the top one-hundred for the album being bought, but for air sales and downloads. These portable devices are revolutionizing sales in the music industry. And those who still do buy CDs most likely rip them on to their computer and transfer them to their Zune or iPod. It's hard to even find a decent CD player now as not many are being sold. The iPod and Zune both have enough effect on us today to even change a whole industry.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished writing performance, the writer establishes a clear thesis statement (iPods and Zunes have greatly changed the way record labels in the music industry have to go about selling their artists' albums and songs). All ideas are tightly focused on two particular aspects of this thesis: the new ways in which music is delivered to these devices and the possible demise of more traditional music delivery systems. The progression of ideas is logical, creating clear relationships among ideas and making the writer's train of thought easy to follow. The writer develops ideas with specific details that add substance to the essay (Songs are no longer put in the top one-hundred for the album being bought, but for air sales and downloads). The writer maintains a tone appropriate to expository writing throughout the essay.

COMPOSITION #3

New gaming technologies effect many people's everyday lives. Gaming systems such as the Playstation 3 and the Xbox 360 cause many people to waste hours of time each week sitting in front of a TV.

These 21st century gaming technologies focus on allowing normal-life people^{to} control a character on a TV. The character on the TV does wild things that the player only wishes he/she could do. Different types of games also allow the player to experience and control everyday life from a different perspective. These systems can give the player a sense of power that is fun to experience. Because of this, these machines may become addicting to many, causing people to blow off their normal everyday work in order to make more time for gaming. This may cause bad grades for adolescents, low salaries for those in the work force, and sometimes damaged relationships with friends and family that designated time should be spent with. Modern gaming systems can be just an enjoyable hobby if they are used wisely and not placed above priorities in importance.

21st century technologies such as modern gaming systems can effect people in many negative ways; but, if they are just used as a fun activity in a person's free time then they will not negatively effect anyone's everyday life.

Score Point 4

The writer of this accomplished performance uses a cause/effect organizational strategy to develop the thesis that 21st century gaming technologies can be addictive and lead to possible negative consequences. The essay is skillfully crafted; the organizational structure allows the writer not only to establish that gaming addictions affect "normal-life people" in their "normal everyday work," but also to address the specific ways in which these addictions manifest themselves. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the development by clearly showing the relationships among ideas. Precise word choice, purposeful and well-controlled sentences, and strong conventions contribute to the overall clarity and effectiveness of the essay.

COMPOSITION #3

Many people have gotten lost before while driving. Sure, one can use a map, but it is irritating trying to fold a map. Also, one can not find food places, lodging, gas stations, etc. using a map. One new technology has been created that will help you find and direct you to your destination. This is called a Global Positioning System, or GPS for short. Having a GPS can keep you from getting lost and make your life much easier.

A GPS has a function to just show a map. This map has most roads accessible to the area that that person is driving in. Most GPS's have an option to select a point of interest such as food, lodging, or even airports or hospitals. Imagine that two brothers are on vacation and driving through Houston at the end of the day. They decide to spend the night because they are tired, but they need to find a hotel. Brother #1 types in hotel in the POI function. The GPS shows them the closest one and they are there within minutes. Now imagine these brothers in a different situation. Brother #1 is driving when all of a sudden Brother #2 starts to have chest pains. Brother #1 does not know what to do so he types in hospital in the POI function of the GPS. It displays that there is a hospital three blocks away. There, Brother #2 is successfully treated for a heart attack. If not for the GPS, he might have died.

Global Positioning Systems are indeed important, and not only to these brothers. People can find virtually anything if they needed to. That's why GPS Systems can make everyone's life be better. They help us find our way.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished performance, the writer uses an anecdote to support a clear thesis statement: "One new technology has been created that will help you find and direct you to your destination. This is called a Global Positioning System, or GPS for short." This anecdote is an appropriate organizational strategy because the writer uses it to **explain** rather than to tell a story. In this particular case, the writer focuses on the high points of two specific instances in which a GPS was not only helpful to two brothers (finding a hotel) but also necessary (finding a hospital). In the last paragraph of the essay, the writer broadens the explanation by generalizing the experiences of the two brothers to ways in which Global Positioning Systems can "make everyone's life be better." The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task. In addition, the writer demonstrates a consistent control of sentences and command of conventions.

COMPOSITION #3

Before morphine, doctors had to perform surgery with patients being fully awake, and very much in pain. To keep the patients from screaming, doctors would often put a leather strap in their mouths for them to bite down on. Sometimes doctors could give patients alcohol to try to lull the pain, but that really didn't help much. Patients still felt every incision and all the pain. Success rates were not very high. Patients would often flail around because of the pain, causing doctors to possibly sever an artery or make the incision or wound deeper. Often causing the patients to die from loss of blood. To keep this from happening, doctors would have people hold the patient down, especially in cases of amputation where doctors had to saw through the bone.

When morphine was invented, doctors were able to put patients to sleep during surgery. This made for a cleaner and safer job for doctors. You didn't have patients flailing around anymore, causing loss of blood, and accidental incisions. Doctors' success rates started increasing.

Though when morphine was first invented, it was expensive, and it took time to spread to smaller communities, it drastically changed the way surgeries were done. It also led to the invention of other modern day drugs used to put people to sleep during surgery. I think it's safe to say that morphine changed the world of medicine and saved many lives.

Score Point 4

The writer uses the last sentence of the essay as a clear thesis statement. This is an acceptable approach and, in the case of this writer, is skillfully executed. The writer uses a historical context to show the connection between the pain felt by patients during surgery and surgical success rates. In the first half of the essay, the writer focuses on the difficulties of surgery and lack of surgical success without morphine. In the second half, the writer charts the salutary benefits of morphine, not only with regard to patients' well-being but also with surgical success. Specific and well-chosen details and examples (doctors would often put a leather strap in their mouths; Patients still felt every incision and all the pain) add substance to the essay. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections make the writer's train of thought easy to follow. In addition, the word choice is purposeful and precise, and sentences are varied and well controlled. Overall, this engaging essay represents an accomplished writing performance.