

Student Sample B

Grade 11 Argument Writing Performance Task: Distracted Driving

SCORES AND COMMENTARY

- **Bold** words and phrases are taken from the Student Language Writing Scoring Guide: Grades 6-8 Condensed Version for Informative/Explanatory and Argument Writing and Research Papers.
- *Italicized* words are direct quotes from the student writing.

Ideas/Content: 3

The reader can infer the main idea(s). The claim is stated near the end of the paper, but is not clear. *Many states have made there own laws prohibiting driving with a cell phone, but the government needs to make a law that makes it ilegal to drive with a cell phone of any kind even a hands-free one.* **Details are present, but...occasionally slightly off-topic.** *We drive and use a cell phone and yet sometimes people accidentally trip and fall or run into someone when they walk and staring at their phones.* **In argumentative writing, counterclaims are ignored.** The writer does not address a counterclaim. Counterclaims are a grade 7 expectation.

Organization: 3

An attempt has been made to organize the writing. The beginning is undeveloped. The writer does not state a claim. **Transitional strategies** (e.g., *Recent research, So when driving, Many people wondering why, When talking to a passenger*) **are used adequately, with some variety, to clarify the relationships between and among ideas** (score of 4). **The organization may lapse in some places, while being clear in others** (score of 3). The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for organization.

Voice: 3

The writer's commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. The voice is inappropriately personal in places. **The voice, style and tone may vary within the piece as understanding of audience and purpose shifts.** *Many states have made there own laws prohibiting driving with a cell phone, but the government needs to make a law that makes it ilegal to drive with a cell phone of any kind even a hands-free one. That will make everything better for everybody all the time. Thank you for reading my paper.*

Word Choice: 4

The writer employs a variety of words (e.g., *outlawed, distractions, dangerous, reduces, ordinarilly*) **that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose.** **Domain-specific vocabulary** (e.g., *cognitive, multitasking, manual texting, devices, body language*) **is used with words that are functional and precise.**

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Sentence Fluency: 3

Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. *People dont see its dangerous driving with a cell phone, or why it is, Most citizen dont belive hands-free devices do not count as a destraction. But they do and although they are legel in Oregon they should be outlawed too.*

Conventions: 3

The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions. Errors begin to impede readability (score of 3). **Spelling errors, including misspelling of common words** (e.g., *dont, legel, there, serius*), **occur frequently, distracting the reader** (score of 2). **Capitalization is generally correct** (score of 4). **Significant editing is needed** (score of 3). The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for conventions.

Use of Sources: 3

The writing shows an overreliance on a single source (source 4). **Sources are inconsistently identified with in-text documentation.** A bibliography page was not required for this task.