

Student Sample C

Grade 11 Argument Writing Performance Task: Distracted Driving

SCORES AND COMMENTARY

- **Bold** word and phrases are taken from the Revised Oregon Writing Scoring Guide for Informative/Explanatory and Argument Writing and Research Papers.
- *Italicized* words are direct quotes from the student writing.

Ideas and content 6

The writing is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. Resources provided strong, accurate, credible support. Claims and counterclaims (refer to paragraph 2) are thoroughly developed. Details are relevant and establish the substantive main idea(s) or claim(s) by using significant facts, extended definitions, concrete details appropriate to audience and purpose.

Organization 6

The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The introductory paragraph is strong, inviting, and draws the reader in. *To the average driver, Oregon's laws concerning distracted driving seem to strike a happy balance between... New research, however, suggests that the current laws fail to address one egregious form of distraction... And so, I contend that Oregon's distracted driving laws should be expanded to include... The conclusion provides a solid, satisfying sense of resolution or closure which clearly supports the claims, arguments, information, or explanations presented. We have not just a duty, but also a moral imperative to protect our citizens through the expansion of Oregon's distracted driving laws. Transitions are smooth, effective, and varied among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, ideas). (e.g., Some might claim... Moreover... In allowing these... If we've established that... While detractors claim... It is clear that... In adding barbs... In expanding the scope)*

Voice 6

The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose and audience establishing and maintaining an objective tone and level of formality... The writer focuses on communicating the message most effectively. The topic comes to life with originality in the way ideas are presented, conviction and focus.

Word Choice 6

Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad, range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. Vocabulary is striking and varied, using domain specific words and phrases that enhance the overall message. (e.g., *autonomy, egregious, negligible, distraction, paraphrases a multitude of studies, sequentially, toggling, transgressions, arbitrary, rampant, retributory, imposing*)

Sentence Fluency 6

Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship with consistently strong varied syntax that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. Varied sentence patterns create an effective combination of power and grace. Refer to any paragraph in the essay.

Conventions 5

The writing demonstrated strong command of standard writing conventions... and uses them effectively to enhance communication. The text is sufficiently long and complex to demonstrate skill in using a wide range of conventions. The writing contains few errors. There is little need for editing.

Use of Sources 5

The writing demonstrates strong commitment to the quality, accuracy, and significance of research presented. Multiple authoritative sources are used to answer a question. Borrowed material is acknowledged by introducing the paraphrase with the name of the authority...; paraphrased material is interwoven in the text with little transitional distraction. *David Teater of the National Safety Council paraphrases a multitude of studies, explaining... A study by Adam Just says precisely that... Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that...* the main **sources** (video, fact sheet, FAQs, and chart) **are inconsistently identified with in-text documentation** (score of 3). A bibliography page was not required for this task. The preponderance of evidence supports a score of 5.