

Student Sample A

Grade 7 Argument Writing Performance Task: Social Media

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 and Content: 4

Purpose and main ideas are easy to understand. Topic is supported with relevant information. *In paragraph 4, they said, "in Kansas, a high school class president was suspended for a twitter post making fun of his school's football team." I believe that they did the right thing to suspend a student here because even if it wasn't that mean of a comment, some students might have felt threatened or harassed.* **Claims and counterclaims have logical reasoning and relevant evidence.** Refer to paragraph 5.

Organization: 4

Organization and order of ideas and details make sense and are easy to follow. The introduction introduces the topic. Transitions (e.g., *There are many reasons, An example, Another example, As you can see*) **help the reader follow the writing from one part to another. The conclusion supports the claims and information and explanation presented.** Refer to the last paragraph. **Paragraph breaks help the reader.**

Voice: 4

The writing maintains a formal style. The writing is sincere and honest. *I completely agree with this policy because they are showing that they take these matters very seriously and do not tolerate inappropriate behavior. ...I think this was taking it way too far.* **The writer seems committed to the topic.**

Word Choice: 4

Words communicate meaning, but may not energize the writing. Domain-specific words are used along with words that are functional and precise. (e.g., *cyberbullying, counterarguments, potential, embarrassed, threatened, device*) **Words have variety. Many different words are used. Overused sayings or expressions are usually avoided.** *I would feel kind of creeped out if this would have happened to me.*

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Sentence Fluency: 4

The writing is easy to read out loud. It sounds natural. *First of all, saying that someone was mean isn't even that bad of a comment, and the fact that she had to turn over her account with a police officer present is just unacceptable.* **Sentences begin** (e.g., *Social media, It is not, One reason, This is very, I believe that, Even little situations, I completely agree*) **in different ways. Some sentences are shorter and some are longer.**

Conventions: 4

Sentences are complete and have correct punctuation. Punctuation within sentences is usually correct. Spelling (e.g., *embarrassed, potential, harassment, degraded, administrators, especially*) **is usually correct.**

Use of Sources: 4

The writer uses relevant information (score of 4) **from two sources** (score of 3). **Quoted materials are usually punctuated correctly so that errors do not block meaning. All sources are cited with in-text documentation.** A bibliography page was not required for this task. The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 4.