

Student Sample B

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: 3-

Purpose and main ideas main ideas may be too general or simple (score of 3), and at times **not clear** (score of 2). *I think that some certain things should be unable to be written/said, but if you put a lot of limitations on what people can and cannot say then it is taking away the right of free speech. But I do still agree that....* **Counterclaims have logical reasoning and evidence** (score of 3), but **are unclear** (score of 2). *But in some situations I think there is too much limitations on free speech, such as* **Supporting details are limited. Some credible sources are used to show partial understanding of the topic.** The preponderance of evidence supports the score of a low 3 for ideas and content.

Organization: 3

Organization and order of ideas may be a little unclear (score of 3). The writer seems to waffle back and forth. *...I agree with this because I think that no matter where you are you should be able to say whatever you want with slight limitations on violence or threats, so I also think that in the Mary Beth Tinker article, she should not have been force to take off the arm band because the school was trying to take away the right to free speech, which is why I disagree with it.* **Transitions sometimes work, but the same ones** (e.g., *but, but I do, but in, but I also*) **may be used too often** (score of 3). **Paragraph breaks help the reader** (score of 4). **The conclusion is ineffective** (score of 2) and somewhat vague. *In conclusion I think that there should be some limitations on free speech but only when it could potentially harm the public, but I also think that schools cannot be able to take away the right to free speech in or out of school, but thank you for reading my essay, I hope you enjoyed and your understood my opinions and how I illustrated them.* The preponderance of evidence supports a score of 3 for organization..

Voice: 3

The writing may not maintain a formal style. The last portion of the final paragraph is inappropriate to audience and purpose. **The writer seems somewhat committed to the topic.**

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Word Choice: 4

Words communicate meaning, but may not energize the writing. Domain-specific words (*organized criminal organizations, limitations, threats*) **are used along with words that are functional and precise** (*communicate, suspended, slight, potentially*). **Words have variety. Many different words are used.**

Sentence Fluency: 3

Parts of the writing are easy to read out loud. *Some other things that should not be communicated are between organized criminal organizations, they should not be allowed to communicate through social media because of the potential risk of evil planning that could harm the public.* This reads easily when proper punctuation is inserted. A period should be placed after the word organizations instead of the comma. Punctuation errors are addressed under the trait of conventions. ... **other parts are difficult.** The entire third paragraph is challenging to read, sometimes because of missing punctuation (conventions), and also because sentences are awkwardly constructed (sentence fluency).

Conventions: 3

There are many run-ons and comma splices (score of 2). **Spelling** (*limitations, potentially, communicated, administrators, constitutional*) **is usually correct** (score of 4). **Capital letters are usually correct** (4). **Errors distract the reader and require significant editing** (score of 3). The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for conventions.

Use of Sources: 3

The writer uses some relevant information (source 2) **from only one source** (score 3). **Quoted materials are usually punctuated correctly so that errors do not block meaning** (score of 4). **All sources are cited with in-text documentation** (score of 4). A bibliography page was not required for this task. Since the writer uses information from only one source, the preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for use of sources.