



AP[®] English Language & Composition 2003 Sample Student Responses

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BEGIN YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 HERE.

The gates of the transport unhinge and with it comes a shower of bullets, mixed with tracer ammunition, a rainfall of death produced by German machine guns on courageous Americans in the Normandy invasion. As troops progress up the war-torn, blood-stained beach, a nearby explosion sends movie-goers ~~blowing~~ to the backs of their seats. Yes, ~~also~~ the scene described is from the opening scene of the famed Saving Private Ryan, one of the most visually ~~stunning~~ spectacular war flicks of all time. Only entertainment? No. An insight to the harsh, merciless, and cruel realities of war? Yes. Movies such as this, ~~blow~~ from their widespread acceptance and praise, demonstrate that, yes, the cinema can be as much a symbol of America as the White House. Although some proclaim that the entertainment industry has poisoned society, entertainment ~~is~~ operates ~~in~~ a far more positive ^{position} ~~side~~ for society.

Certainly, ~~as~~ some entertainment has been found to foster negative consequences, such as violence, sexual activity, and use of contraband. Television, especially, has ~~come~~ come under attack from moral-minded critics for shows like MTV's "Jackass," ~~where~~ where unruly men perform life-threatening, sometimes outright ~~and~~ sickening stunts and which numerous fatal and near-fatal incidents have been attributed to as youth attempt to imitate what they see on TV. Sexually explicit movies, plays, and novels, ~~too~~ have contributed to ~~an~~ trend of heightened sexual activity and experimentation at an early age. The entertainment, as much as the cigarette industry with figures like Joe Camel, is guilty of targeting specific demographic groups with ~~lead~~ material.

~~blow~~ However, the entertainment industry is held in high esteem by a majority of Americans for its positive impact. Movies like Saving

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that killing is ok, but to stress the dangers and urgency of war,
while simultaneously astound watches with visual reality

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BEGIN YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 HERE.

Taking the definition of capacity in its purest form - that is "ability", certainly, I agree that some extreme forms of entertainment do have the capacity to "ruin." However, in most instances of "risky" books, movies, and plays - entertainment (conservatively seen as damnable) has something to offer beyond the cover, that most people are not willing to look for.

Two nights ago I left my house feeling guilty for lying to my ~~grandmother~~ church-going, Republican-voting, 81 year old grandmother ~~about my final destination~~ that night, which was in fact the Broadway Production of The Full Monty, a play commonly ~~mis-~~^{mis-}viewed as a "strip show" and one she would have never let me attend, being a ~~17 year old~~ ^{17 year old} "Southern Belle." However, upon arriving to a half-empty theater (obviously others in the Bible Belt ~~felt the same~~ shared my grandmother's view) I began looking deeper into the story of The Full Monty & realized it was not about stripping at all, but rather, a group of men doing what was necessary to keep wives, pay rent, please their children, and provide for ^{their} families. Though the "nakedness" of some of the performers may mislead people into contempt for the theater, it is shows like The Full Monty that open our eyes to reality, and do not "ruin" it, but rather embrace it & provide hope for all people in similar situations.

Similarly, in books, such as the once-banned Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, ~~we~~^{we} find great relationships between blacks & whites, discover the harsh reality of a black man's life in the 1800's & also watch a white boy ~~grow from a "hater"~~ grow from a "hater" to a lover." ~~That is~~^{That is} those of us who choose to look beyond the ~~most~~ commonly viewed destructive word "nigger" & wish to ~~embrace~~ understand ~~some~~ Mark Twain's purpose

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in using the language he did. Though some ^{still} view Twain's work as destructive to society, ~~it is actually a masterpiece~~ and neglect to see Huck's evolution in the book - I view it as an "eye opener" and an irreplaceable classic.

And lastly - the movies. In all of movie history people have debated what is and isn't released on the big screen. From the smoke of John Wayne's gun to the ~~gratifying~~ "gruesome" ~~murder~~ shower murders in Alfred Hitchcock's acclaimed film "Psycho" - directors and writers have brought imagination, as well as realism to the public. Some embrace it with open arms, finding beauty in stories such as "A Beautiful Life", the story of an Italian man and his son finding the beauty in the midst of the horrific Holocaust. Others see it as outrageous and inappropriate for the general public. The list of movies such as these could go on forever, but as the cliché goes beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

and so it is with all entertainment, be it film, books, plays, or even true life - there is beauty in all, it just needs to be found & as far as I'm concerned - "The show must go on."

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Entertainment is popular among all different age groups, among different ethnicities, and has always been present throughout the ages. Entertainment often defines a certain time period, or it can identify a group of people. As a teenager, I am most ~~susceptible~~ vulnerable to entertainment, ^{but} at the same time I can understand how it ~~has~~ "ruins" society. Many things in life has its pros and cons, as does entertainment.

As a junior in high school I have much pressure from the many tests, homework assignments, and extra activities. It is my belief that one with so much pressure should absorb some entertainment from time to time. Nobody should overwork ~~themselves~~ themselves, so it is important to relax and tune-in to a few television programs ~~from time to time~~. Entertainment ~~also allows~~ serves as a scapegoat to me in times of frustration. A little music always brightens my day and takes certain burdens off my shoulders. Also, Gabler forgot the ~~programs~~ educational programs on television that are not "mindless", such as news specials and important interviews with political contenders. Not only is entertainment a soothing friend that will not judge, but it also educates others culturally, politically, and knowledgeably.

While I enjoy entertainment, I also have experienced how it can be "formulaic" and just "fun" in which entertainment "has the capacity to ruin society". Many youths, like myself, now spend hours in front of the television and computer screens, searching for ~~that~~ inane entertainment. This not only is detrimental to ~~the~~ one's health, but takes away from one's social life, as well. The time that an individual spends in front of the t.v. can be used for helping the community.

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or for enjoying activities with friends, ~~the~~ ^{such as} sports. ~~This~~ ~~power~~ of controlling teenagers "ruins society" indefinitely. Entertainment may also corrupt the society by the sex appeal on television, or ~~the~~ certain uncensored programs.

Many people have access to the internet, to the television, or to the radio, where there lurks material only suitable for certain age groups. Entertainment ~~can~~ has the power to ~~be~~ mature a child too quickly, and this is what is dangerous. The characters in certain shows, plays, or musical tunes may also mislead certain individuals into believing ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~ideal~~ ~~person~~ that the "ideal person" should look glamorous, beautiful, and only weigh a certain number of pounds, as well. The message that entertainment sends may ~~be~~ be misconstructed, and therefore be harmful to the uniqueness of an individual, or to the society.

Entertainment must ~~not~~ certainly should not be completely bashed for the messages it sends, as it can also help an individual during his/her most ^{instruct} pressureful times. It has the capacity to both ~~send~~ and to ruin.

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