



AP[®] English Language (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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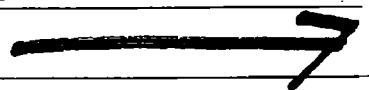
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BEGIN YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 2 HERE.

In an era when all the frontiers of civilization's expansion seems to have vanished, when the settling and industrialization of all the Earth's land and resources seems to have reached a limit, we, as innate pioneers, look towards space as our next domain of conquest. Despite a hostile, belligerent beginning to the Space Age, in the midst of global tension and a threat of total cataclysm, mankind ~~has~~ ^{has} since returned to space as a medium of peace and progress. But space is not free, space is not safe, and space is not easy. With millions of dollars of the Federal budget tied up with NASA and related institutions, with unmeasurable dangers plaguing every launch, reentry, and landing, and with public interest and support dwindling, should the United States, or any space-capable country for that matter, continue to invest in exploring this frontier in the coming century?

The question is not "what are the benefits of exploring space." History, science, literature, and imagination have all shown what "out-of-this-world" feats we can accomplish and how beneficial they are. The first space-borne object, the Sputnik, paved way for a massive integrated network of communication which plays a critical role in society five-and-a-half decades later. Telephones, televisions, ^{the} Internet, and cellphones all depend on ~~the~~ satellites in orbit. Science satellites, capable of detecting weather patterns, cosmic rays, and all terrestrial changes contribute to our awareness and understanding of our surrounding. Information from these satellites tell us how to dress for tomorrow's weather, where a

(The benefits do exist, and they are ubiquitous



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hurricane will hit next, and how much time we have until a Near-Earth Object strikes Earth and destroys all life, if God-forded that ever happens. Every-day appliances have their origins in space, from microwaves to velcro, from super-comfortable mattresses to super-durable clothing. Over the future, space promises many exciting things: new colonies on Mars, new medicinal discoveries in weightlessness, new alums, elements, and dimensions, and a haven for mankind in case Earth's resource are really depleted. In addition, space creates a pop-culture for us, imitating movies, sci-fi literature, and our imagination to explore it. Proponents of space point of these benefits.

But whether these benefits exist or not is not the question. The real dilemma, issue, controversy is this: at what cost, to what means, with what sacrifice, do we need to pay in order to obtain these benefits? This precisely is the argument of the opponents. Certainly, millions of dollars devoted to space instead of solving our problems down here on Earth - poverty, disease, unemployment - could make space unattractive. Serious risks are involved, and the recent Columbia disaster ~~is~~ magnify these risks. Some fear that by exploiting space, we are creating the same military tensions that opened up this frontier in the first place. Eric Severud, in his editorial "Dark Moon", points out some of the psychological costs of going to space. He points out that children will be dreaming of mileage, rocket fuel, and missile noses instead of dreams, hopes, and wonders; businesses will now gaze at the moon with passion instead of love, and generals and scientists will own space, not our imaginations.

Currently, the United States government is acting on a small 19th



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NASA budget as a compromise of sorts; space enthusiasts want more, realists want less. A formula for compromise is non-existent, and to create one would be foolhardy. Party lines are drawn. Opinions are graven in stone. What is the solution?

For the uncertainties of the future, look at the certainties of the past. Surely, a similar debate ensued before Columbus left for the Americas, or Marco Polo for China, or American families for the Turner frontier. But if we, from hindsight, see how our civilization has changed as a result, we can say, with some confidence, that moving to space will progress mankind in the right direction. That is not to say that it will be morally and ideologically perfect, but we must bear those consequences. When a door has been opened, we take it.

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In today's world ~~of~~ ~~of~~ ~~of~~ information technology, we find that ~~increasingly~~, many of the IT jobs of America are being ^{outsourced} ~~sent~~ to ~~the~~ other countries, like China and India. This ^{situation} poses a large problem for the United States in the long run, although the new flow of jobs has been nothing but conducive ~~to~~ for growth of the economy in recent times; therefore a solution ^{must} ~~be~~ soon be found to reverse one of this ^{outward flow} ~~outward flow~~ of jobs.

If you were to talk to the CEO of a large ^{IT} company about what they ^{thought} ~~think~~ of the IT industry ^{today}, they would probably tell you that their profits are up. When jobs are outsourced to ~~other~~ ^{third}-world countries like China and India, companies are able to find employees who are willing ~~to~~ to do a lot of work for a meager sum of money. Therefore, the ~~of~~ software production output dramatically increases, and the companies ~~do~~ not spend so much ^{money on wages} ~~money~~. Not only that, but ^{US-based} ~~US~~ companies receive the added bonus of not having to pay taxes on any money earned outside of the US. All of this profit has ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{an} ~~immediate~~ ^{effect} of brightening ^{up} the economy and stock market.

^{IT} Many ~~computer~~ ^{industry} workers, however, would probably ~~at~~ differ on their ^{about} opinion of the outsourcing of IT jobs. With ^{so many} ~~all~~ of the jobs being sent ~~of~~ to third world nations, America is faced with the enormous problem of a deficit of ^{IT} ~~job~~ jobs. Thus, an increasing number of IT workers are left unemployed. In America, we depend on the people's buying power to ~~keep~~ ^{keep} the economy flourishing. With ~~so~~ ^{more} many people than normal left jobless, and with more becoming so every day, ~~the~~ the buying power of the people will be decreased enormously, perhaps resulting in

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the collapse of the economy.

In order to keep the IT outsourcing problem in check, we must take steps to stop the alarming flow of jobs out of the U.S. Of course, like many other problems, the root of the ~~problem~~ ^{problem} lies in educating more of America's ~~poor~~ children to have the same level of expertise ~~in the IT field~~ as the children who are trained to do that in places like China and India. This will help to keep some of the jobs in the U.S., because companies will ~~to~~ perhaps take more of the well-educated and experienced ~~the~~ Americans to fill jobs. ~~However~~ ~~it is not~~ ~~the~~ ~~proper~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~for~~ ~~companies~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~that~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~U.S.~~ ~~because~~ ~~companies~~ ~~will~~ ~~to~~ ~~perhaps~~ ~~take~~ ~~more~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~well~~ ~~educated~~ ~~and~~ ~~experienced~~ ~~the~~ ~~Americans~~ ~~to~~ ~~fill~~ ~~jobs~~.

While ~~this~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~education~~ ~~can~~ ~~maybe~~ ~~help~~ to alleviate some of the pressure ^{+ burden} caused by outsourcing, the real solution lies simply in that companies must realize that, ~~by~~ ultimately Maslow's hierarchy of basic needs should be met, ~~by~~ but not ~~by~~ at the ~~sacrifice~~ ^{expense} of America's future, and therefore, the outsourcing must be maintained at a level to insure security and prosperity for future generations of America.

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It seems that in today's world, everywhere you turn people are arguing over one issue or another. The very nature of America is that we are allowed to disagree and argue over everything. ~~from~~ A current controversial issue we are facing in America is ~~who~~ how much the FCC should be allowed to censor the TV we watch. After incidents this past year, the FCC has tightened regulations which leave Americans to question how much is too much control to give the FCC.

As with every issue, there is two sides. First, there are several reasons to support the tightening of regulations. Surely, everyone recalls the issue that began this controversy. ^{During} The 2004 Superbowl Half-Time show, Janet Jackson exposed her breast to millions of viewers. This started an enormous controversy & made the FCC pay closer attention to what went out on the airwaves. Many support this. They appreciate the govt making TV more suitable for families with children. In a society where kids are becoming desensitized & ~~why~~ air as it is, why air more violence and bad language to further the process. Often times, the same effect can be portrayed to the audience w/o excessive violence or profanity. Also, what gives artists & performers the right to behave objectionably on TV? ~~But~~ Parents should feel comfortable letting their children watch TV. Is the daytime, ~~the fear of having to explain~~ The government, they feel, should be allowed to have a say in what goes on TV.

However, many people fear that this is only the first step towards ~~the~~ the FCC being allowed to

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dictate exactly what Americans are allowed to watch. While children make up a portion of viewers, are most ~~television~~ television viewers adults & shouldn't adults be allowed to decide for themselves what is appropriate & isn't appropriate for them to watch. Also, perhaps parents who worry about what their children are watching should be parents & learn what their kids watch. If the parents become involved w/ the decisions of TV for their kids, does the gov't really need to be involved? The FCC becoming stricter creates the feeling of Big Brother watching our private lives. People should be allowed to decide for themselves what to watch. If they don't like something, there's always an "off" button.

Most controversies, like this one, boil down to matters of opinion. There is no clear right or wrong in this case—so no solution can ever be found that will appease both sides. However, there's a chance a ~~compromise~~ compromise can be reached. Perhaps a good solution would be to regulate a "family time" ~~in~~ in the early evening, where only non-offensive shows can be aired. This way, shows that are not appropriate for kids can be viewed later, when most children are sleeping. Another solution could be to install chips that will block out programs above a certain rating. Whatever "solution" is found to this problem, one thing is certain: If either side ever hopes to get anything done, both must be willing to compromise.

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