

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 306–309)

Assignment: Write a three- to five-page persuasive essay supporting the position that a particular cultural ingredient is of paramount importance in making people who they are.

Individual Americans

I once heard a line in an old Western. One cowboy said to the other. “We don’t owe anyone anything, except the people we owe money to.” The dream all Americans are born with is to pursue their individual destinies. But what about the people we leave behind, who may need us? They are just holding us back, they are selfish. The thing that makes Americans most different from people of other cultures is their attitudes about the responsibilities of an individual to family. Americans don’t think they have much of responsibility even to their own families.

Has effective, humorous opening

But how much do these cultural attitudes about individualism really affect us? Perhaps more than we’d like to admit. My friend’s uncle Johnny came from a big Italian family that really values family. Growing up, each person had a role. He now uses the skills he learned growing up, as a happy house-dad.

Strong topic sentence, but connection between sentence and example is not clear

Tom is a third-generation American. When he was growing up, his mom was working a job and going to medical school at the same time. He told me he doesn’t think of himself as having a family. He said, “I’m glad I don’t owe a whole bunch of people something just because of a blood bond.”

Relevant example but not sufficiently elaborated upon

In Vietnam, children are expected to put their family’s needs before their own. Such is the case in my family. All my sisters and I have turned over our summer job money to my mother who uses it to buy groceries and for our education. My friends feel sorry for me but maybe they should be envious: think of all the self-control I’m learning!

Maybe in the long run my financial responsibility to my family will help build character. Maybe it will make me stronger to share the responsibility for my nourishment and education. I am the youngest daughter in my family, and in Vietnamese culture, the youngest daughter has a particular responsibility to her parents: she’s the one who will dedicate her life to caring for them in old age. A lot of Americans do charity, but then they’ll kick one of their own family members out of the house and put them in a nursing home. My friend Shirley’s grandma is in a nursing home and there’s nothing wrong with her that I can see.

Paragraph loses focus and includes some irrelevant information.

The ideas that you grow up with about the importance of an individual to a family are really important.

Conclusion is too vague.

Summary: *This essay has a clear thesis, but some of its supporting paragraphs feel incomplete or unfocused. It could be improved by more supporting evidence—especially anecdotes—and by paying more attention to transitions. Elaborating on the ideas presented could also help to bring the essay to the assigned length.*

This essay might receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 75 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—22 points for Focus/Organization, 25 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.