



English I

Expository Scoring Guide

April 2019

English I

Expository Prompt

Read the information in the box below.

A Gallup poll found that Americans are 20 percent happier on weekends than on workdays. Americans also ranked working as one of their least pleasurable activities, while socializing after work was one of their most pleasurable activities.

Although most people must structure their days around school or work, they still prefer their free time. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining the importance of making time for both work and play.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer’s response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

I could understand why 20% percent of people are happier on weekends than on workdays. Because you dont have to work you could stay home and Relax or you could go out party and have a good time with friends or family. During the week is more serious time its when you have to focus more on school and, or work and after work I figure people are probably less stressed because they dont have to worry about work, they could socialize after or go home and relax. Weekends are way better because mostly every Saturday everyone partys or goes out to have a good time with friends and family

Score Point 1

The writer responds to the prompt and introduces ideas that are generally related to the topic, but the thesis is missing. Throughout the response the writer repeats the idea that people prefer the weekend because people can use the time to relax or socialize with friends, resulting in a weak progression of ideas. Additionally, the details the writer uses to develop ideas (“they dont have to worry about work”; “weekends are way better because mostly every Saturday everyone partys”) are ineffective because the ideas only explain why people prefer weekends to the workweek instead of explaining why it is important to make time for work and play. While the writer makes a few errors in spelling (“probally,” “relaxe”) and punctuation (“its,” “dont”), they do not significantly impact the effectiveness of this very limited writing performance.

Lets see work and playing I would think of alot of things or Ideas of how to work and play.

I would say one of my Ideas would probably be work for half of the day and play for the other half. To me that is a good Idea but there are other ones to. I would say for the ones who work hard in the office for a few months should get a month off probably so they could relax. Let me think of another idea but for right now I would say the weekends are better than workdays cause you really dont get to put effort in to doing stuff on the weekends I mean they are like slacking off days. I would say another way is having them do as much as they can do for one day and then the next day relax and keep on doing that that would make there love to come to work more often probably I would if I did that.

Score Point 1

In this response the writer presents the unclear thesis that “I would think of alot of things or Ideas of how to work and play.” Although most ideas are related to the topic specified in the prompt, the writer shifts abruptly from idea to idea (“I would say for the ones who work hard in the office for a few months should get a month off probably so they could relax. Let me think of another idea but for right now I would say the weekends are better than workdays . . .”), weakening the coherence of the essay. The writer provides vague details (“I would say one of my Ideas would probably be work for half of the day and play for the other half. To me that is a good Idea but there are other ones to”) that are too weak to support the thesis that there are many ways to make time for work and play. Furthermore, the writer has little command of sentence boundaries (“I would say another way is having them do as much as they can do for one day and then the next day relax and keep on doing that that would make there love to come to work more often probably I would if I did that”), disrupting the fluency of this very limited writing performance.

When the bell rings at any normal school for the students to get out they are excited to finally leave and go home to the park or anywhere else they take their free-time happily unlike for people at work they have to work 13hrs a day sometimes and dont have enough time to do anything except sleep or an important avoid. While kids have more time to do whatever they want but people with jobs dont have to worry about their grades or if they did the right thing. But kids in school dont have to be up for 13hrs doing the same thing over and over again for as long as they have that job it sometimes drives some people mad and out of control while kids can do whatever they want play talk run around. But people with jobs have to buy the things they want with their hard earned money which they dont take for granted like little kids.

Score Point 1

Although most of the ideas in this response are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, the thesis is missing. Furthermore, the response shifts abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay. The details the writer uses to compare the responsibilities of adulthood to the freedom of childhood (“... people at work they have to work 13hrs a day sometimes and dont have enough time to do anything except sleep...”; “While kids have more time to do whatever they want...”) are vague and are, in some cases, weakly linked to the prompt. Additionally, the writer also demonstrates little command of sentence boundaries (“But kids in school dont have to be up for 13hrs doing the same thing over and over again for as long as they have that job it sometimes drives some people mad and out of control while kids can do whatever they want play talk run around”), which disrupts the fluency of this very limited writing performance.

Making time for work and play is good so that you would spent time with your family. The you got to Seperat your time becaus you cant be inbolbing your work into your family play time or it aint family time because you sitll got work that your doing being in the phone in your computer. Then your allway going to be working and then the only time dat you would have of is wen your old and your not going to be able to do that becaus you would be in a riterment home and your kid are going to be big with ther own family and there going to have work and not going have muif time for you.

Score Point 1

In the first sentence of this response the writer presents the thesis that “Making time for work and play is good so that you would spent time with your family.” A lack of transitions weakens the progression of ideas and makes parts of the essay difficult to follow. The development of ideas is weak (“... you can’t be inbolbing your work into your family play time or it aint family time because you sitll got work that your doing . . .”; “. . . the only time dat you would have of is wen your old and your not going to be able to do that . . .”) because the examples the writer uses are insufficient and only explain the negative consequences of working too much without explaining why it is important to make time for one’s family as is stated in the thesis. Additionally, the writer demonstrates little command of spelling (“seperat,” “becaus,” “inbolbing,” “sitll,” “allway,” “dat,” “wen,” “riterment,” “inuf”) and sentence boundaries (the last sentence of the essay is a lengthy run-on sentence), which create disruptions in the fluency of this very limited writing performance.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's thesis statement is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

Many people who have a job have to find a day where they can relax or even hangout, speaking from a teenage who does work. Having a job as well as being in school can be a hard role, having to handle the stress of a job and balancing out school, and keeping your grades up where there more support to be. A teen with a job has it's pros and cons, some pros are you get paid, and you have money to call your own. Some cons are your grades can go down badly, and you work so much hours you're tired at school. With jobs today if your in school you don't work much hours during the week, also you get days off, most teens work during the weekend from 8 to sometimes 5 when you don't work many hours you can find time to have fun, because your not always wrapped up in work. But, you still have to think about school, and homework. Sometimes work can get in the way of any school clubs you may be in, but most of the time work, and which ever club will work around it. So havin a job doesn't always get in the way of you trying to have fun, but it can be very stressful.

Score Point 2

The writer of this response offers the weak thesis that it is difficult to do well in school when one has to also cope with the stress that comes from work. At times, sentence-to-sentence connections (“With jobs today if your in school you don’t work much hours during the week, also you get days off. Most teens work during the weekend . . .”; “. . . When you don’t work many hours you can find time to have fun . . .”) are too weak to support the flow of the essay because they do not show how the stress from work makes it difficult to do well at school as is stated in the thesis. Although the writer uses details and examples to develop the ideas of the essay (“. . . your grades can go down badly, and you work so much hours youre tired at school”; “Sometimes work can get in the way of any school clubs you may be in . . .”), they are partially presented and only list the negative consequences of having a job instead of explaining how a balance between work and school can be achieved. For these reasons, this response represents a basic writing performance.

Working and playing are two most oposite things. But it is good to make time for both of the subjects. It is good to balance things out.

Working is needed to get you stronger, to get you paid, and to keep you doing something. Working can be tough when you have to pay bills and food for yourself, but you only do that when your an adult.

Working can also get you strong and muscular if your lifting things. When your bored and tired of playing you can work to keep you busy. Working isn't all that fun, but it would be worth something when you get older.

Playing is the oposite of working. playing can give you the freedom you want away from work.

Playing outside, is fun and prevents you from being bored all day. Some people use playing as a way to sweat or to lose calories. Playing can be exiting until you get hurt, sports like soccer, basketball, football, or tennis are ways to play with families or friends. But after a while of playing you get tired and fall asleep.

Working and playing are oposite thing but are both needed to keep you from laying down all day. Both get tiring after a while but are helpful to your every day life.

Score Point 2

In this response the writer presents the weak thesis that “. . . it is good to make time for both of the subjects. It is good to balance things out.” The progression of ideas is not always controlled because a lack of sentence-to-sentence connections (“Working can also get you strong and muscular if your lifting things. When your bored and tired of playing you can work to keep you busy. Working isn't all that fun, but it would be worth something when you get older”) causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay, making it difficult to show the relationship among ideas. Although the writer presents ideas to support the thesis (“Working is needed to get you stronger, to get you paid, and to keep you doing something”; “Playing can give you the freedom you want away from work”), the examples are only partially presented and do not explain how to find a balance between work and play, resulting in a minimal development of ideas. For these reasons this response represents a basic writing performance.

Work isn't something anybody is excited about, but is something you have to do for the rest of your life until you're not capable. To be living a good life with your own house and car you need to work. You can't always depend on other people like your mom or partner because one day they'll be gone and you will be on your own.

Everybody always gets excited for the weekend because that's their time to take a break. That is their time to spend time with their family and friends. Most people don't work on weekends and they are lucky, certain people work the whole week.

People should always make time for both work and play, because you need to have money for yourself and play to spend time with family. Nobody would like to miss out moments with their family.

Score Point 2

In the last paragraph of this response, the writer presents the somewhat unclear thesis that “People should always make time for both work and play, because you need to have money for yourself and play to spend time with family.” Although most of the ideas are generally related to the prompt, the writer’s inclusion of irrelevant information (“Most people don’t work on weekends and they are lucky, certain people work the whole week”) somewhat interferes with the focus of the essay. Additionally, the development of ideas is minimal because the details the writer uses to explain the importance of balancing time for work and play are too briefly presented (“To be living a good life with your own house and car you need to work”; “That is their time to spend time with their family and friends”) and demonstrate only a limited understanding of the expository task. While the writer makes a few errors in the use of language and conventions, they do not significantly impact the effectiveness of this basic writing performance.

If every body on Earth were given the choice to be productive citizens of society or not work a day of their lives, it would be interesting to see the total outcome. Golly, that's not how it works. As we know, from the time we begin education we're all hopping in this cycle of happening that occur in different ways based on personal choices. So, people might as well say to them selves right from the get go that they may be in this for the long run, but were only on this planet for a short amount of time so you better have fun with it.

It's very important to get up on weekdays and go to work, no matter what you do for a living, because that's what really keeps this big wheel turning.

Another thing is having money may not signify happiness, but it sure makes things alot easier. Once you have it, you no longer have to worry about significant responsibilities.

Finally, but most importantly, you must have fun in this life doing whatever makes you happy. Dont ever wind up doing an activity that you know you dont desire, but trying new things is also a magnificent cleansing technique. Realicing the great potential life really holds makes you want to do the right thing, and in the long run will leave you with a smile on your face wheather you're working or playing.

It is important to make time for both of these because living the system of our modern era will better you as a person and also an organism of this huge rock we call home.

Score Point 2

In the last sentence of this philosophical response, the writer presents the somewhat unclear thesis that it is important to make time for work and play because “living the system of our modern era will better you as a person and also an organism of this huge rock we call home.” The writer’s progression of ideas is not always logical because wordiness (“As we know, from the time we begin education we’re all hopping in this cycle of happening that occur in different ways based on personal choices. So, people might as well say to themselves right from the get go that they may be in this for the long run, but were only on this planet for a short amount of time so you better have fun with it”) causes some disruptions in the flow of ideas. While the writer presents some ideas to support the thesis (“It’s very important to get up on weekdays and go to work . . .”; “. . . money may not signify happiness, but it sure makes things alot easier”; “. . . you must have fun in this life doing whatever makes you happy”), the essay is superficial because the ideas are only partially presented, demonstrating only a limited understanding of the expository task. In addition, uncontrolled sentences (“Dont ever wind up doing an activity that you know you dont desire, but trying new things is also a magnificent cleansing technique. Realicing the great potential life really holds makes you want to do the right thing, and in the long run will leave you with a smile on your face wheather you’re working or playing”) weaken the effectiveness of this basic writing performance.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. Most ideas are related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer’s response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

Work and play; they are two very different things, yet one needs to make time for both or the outcome will not be so great. A human needs to have structure in their life, this is true, but that certainly does not mean no play. To be healthy you need time to relax and socialize, you can't keep a running course of the same activity, or you will soon become infirm in this world.

If one works their self from hours upon hours with no break they may go mad, or get sick. The only cure for being over worked is going out and having time for yourself. Socialization is good for your body and mind. Refreshing your body may even lead to a more sufficient day, leaving you more intelligent and more happy. After a time period of a break to socialize or relax it would be healthy to get back to work.

Don't think that all play is healthy either! If all you do is play, then your mind is probably not getting the proper work out it needs. If one just plays, then you aren't feeding your brain the information it can hold. Your brain can hold way more information than you think, and if you don't teach it new things it will "get sick" and then so will you! Your whole body needs to be worked, and that will make you a healthy human being.

Working and playing is easy for your body but you need to guide your body in the right direction. It's your responsibility to keep your body healthy and give it what it needs. Your body needs to have a good structure: Percentages vary on what you do, but they should be close to an average equal amount. Being healthy is something everybody should be.

Score Point 3

In this response the writer offers the clear thesis "Work and play; they are two very different things, yet one needs to make time for both or the outcome will not be so great." Sentence-to-sentence connections contribute to the logical progression of ideas ("The only cure for being over worked is going out and having time for yourself"; "Refreshing your body may even lead to a more sufficient day . . ."; "After a time period of a break to socialize or relax it would be healthy to get back to work") and explain the necessity and positive results of finding time to enjoy a moment of relaxation. Specific details sufficiently develop the ideas of the essay ("If one just plays, then you aren't feeding your brain the information it can hold"; "Your whole body needs to be worked and that will make you a healthy human being") and add substance by emphasizing that while work and play are different, they both produce negative consequences when they are not equally balanced. Specific and clear word choice illustrates the adverse effects caused by an imbalance between work and play ("running course," "hours upon hours," "go mad"), contributing to the clarity and quality of the essay. Holistically, this response represents a satisfactory writing performance.

My friend is a ninth grader who loves to play videogames. The result of his lack of effort in school, is that he is failing most of his classes. After seeing his most recent report card, he decided to spend less time with his television, and more with his books. Keeping work and enjoyment at equilibrium is necessary, because too much or too less pleasure may bring negative results:

In a situation where an individual spends more hours a day having fun than working, the person tends to develop a habit of laziness. For example, a teenager who watches television most of the time, will not dedicate a sufficient portion of their day for studying. As a result, they will find themselves lagging behind in school. This can lead to an unsuccessful career for the person, and have disastrous effects on their future.

On the other hand, too much work may lead to an unhealthy stress. Visualize a student who studies without a break from early morning to late at night. Lack of rest will cause excessive exhaustion to the person, who will not maintain focus in class. Constant tiredness and distraction will have a heavy academic impact.

Work and pleasure are both important, as long as they are equal. Extra quantities of either one, may cause harm. However, if kept in a balance, both are vital.

Score Point 3

In this essay the writer provides the clear thesis that “Keeping work and enjoyment at equilibrium is necessary, because too much or too less pleasure may bring negative results.” The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled because sentence-to-sentence connections (“For example, a teenager who watches television . . .”; “As a result, they will find themselves lagging behind . . .”; “This can lead to . . . disastrous effects on their future”) are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and effectively explain how the absence of equilibrium in one’s life can result in both immediate and long-term adverse effects. The writer offers a hypothetical example (“ . . . the person tends to develop a habit of laziness”; “. . . can lead to an unsuccessful career . . .”) and uses specific and appropriate details to explain the potential negative results of a person having too much fun. Additionally, clear and specific word choice (“unhealthy stress,” “Constant tiredness,” “distraction,” “vital”) emphasizes the harm in living life to one extreme instead of finding a perfect balance and contributes to the essay’s overall quality and clarity. For these reasons, this response demonstrates a satisfactory writing performance.

We are taught when we are young that we should enjoy our childhood, don't be in a hurry to grow up, and that we should play from dusk 'til dawn. It wasn't explained that the reason we should play while we're young is because all too soon we would be working more than we would be playing.

It's expected that if you are to be a productive citizen you must contribute to society by working. Whether working shows its form in school, or in a small office cubicle, or perhaps in the White House, everyone has to work to some degree. Balancing work and play becomes evident sooner or later.

If you surround yourself completely in work and leave no time for leisurely activities the possibility of stress and depression grows. If you're the type of person who genuinely likes your job, kudos to you. On the flip side, if you are all play and no work, you could be irresponsible, undependable, and you may need to just grow up. Finding the balance of work and play is difficult and it won't be easy figuring it out.

As a plus, if you work you earn money that you can play with. Lots of activities aren't a free ride and contributing to society by working means you are also making money! Through hard work and thoughtful saving, a balance of work and play can lead to a full and happy life.

Score Point 3

The writer of this essay uses a philosophical approach to present the broad thesis that “. . . a balance of work and play can lead to a full and happy life.” Transitions, for the most part, are sufficient to support the flow of the essay (“It's expected that if you are to be a productive citizen you must contribute . . .”; “If you surround yourself completely in work and leave no time for leisurely activities . . .”; “As a plus, if you work you earn money . . .”) and show the relationship between one's responsibility to be productive and one's necessity to have moments of enjoyment. The writer presents specific and appropriate details to explain the importance of work (“Whether working shows its form in school, or in a small office . . . everyone has to work to some degree”; “. . . contributing to society by working means you are also making money”) and contrasts the potential negative results of too much work and too much play (“stress and depression”; “irresponsible, undependable”), adding some substance to the essay. Additionally, the writer's sentences are varied and adequately controlled (“We are taught when we are young that we should enjoy our childhood, don't be in a hurry to grow up, and that we should play from dusk 'til dawn”; “On the flip side, if you are all play and no work, you could be irresponsible, undependable, and you may need to just grow up”), contributing to the overall effectiveness of this satisfactory writing performance.

It's important to make time for both work and play because a person needs money while at the same time they need relaxation in order to live a long and happy life.

"A Gallup poll found that Americans are 20 percent happier on weekends than on workdays." This statistic makes a lot of sense because people are happier when they are not working due to the fact that they do not have a pile of papers to grade or boxes to load. Instead, they have time for themselves and their families. It is important for a person to make time for both their family and themselves because happiness contributes significantly to a person's health.

A study showed that "socializing after work was one of [people's] most pleasurable activities." Again, this is very logical because socializing is something one wants to do and not something one has to do. Therefore, it is more enjoyable because one does not have any pressure hovering over their head. Although socializing is better than working, one should also focus on work. A job gives both money and the sense of achievement and fulfillment one needs to live happily.

In order to live a long and happy life, one should allow time for both work and play. This simple task can make people live longer and have a much happier life with less stress and fatigue.

Score Point 3

In the beginning of this essay, the writer introduces the thesis that making time for work and play is important because ". . . a person needs money while at the same time they need relaxation in order to live a long and happy life." The sentence-to-sentence connections within the paragraphs ("Again, this is very logical because socializing is something one wants to do . . ."; "Therefore, it is more enjoyable because one does not have any pressure hovering over their head . . ."; "Although socializing is better than working, one should also focus on work") are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and explain that balance contributes to a sense of fulfillment and happiness. The writer uses the prompt to support the thesis but presents specific details to develop ideas about the importance of both play (" . . . [to] have time for themselves and their families"; ". . . not have any pressure hovering over their head") and work ("sense of achievement and fulfillment"), adding some substance to the essay. Moreover, the writer's clear and specific word choice ("relaxation," "contributes significantly," "more enjoyable," "achievement," "fulfillment") illustrates that both work and play contribute equally to living a happy, well-balanced life and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. Overall, this essay indicates a satisfactory writing performance.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. All ideas are strongly related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer’s train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

As we mature, it's hard to make time for activities we enjoy, especially during our late teenage years or as a young adult. I want to emphasize how important finding a balance between work and play is, to help with feeling burnt out and bonding with others. Finding a balance is hard, it typically comes down to wanting to work more to reach some goal, such as completion or a raise. But finding time to stop and enjoy the small things is important too, especially to relationships or friendships. In the song "Cat in the Hat" a hard working dad never makes time to play with his son, who just wants to bond with him. Towards the end of the song, the son becomes like his father, never having time to stop. The father, now older and having time to play, regrets his choices, as he was never able to bond with his own son, showing how distant they are now. If only he had played with his son rather than work constantly, he and his son would be closer. This shows how important it is to find balance. When we do the same dull routine every day, we get bored. We start taking shortcuts, or find things to entertain ourselves. For this example, imagine yourself if you were to do the same job or do a routine, such as wake up, get ready, eat breakfast and so on. Imagine if you never went anywhere, if you never had any days off. You'd start feeling burnt out on it all. This is why play, or variety in general is important. We're all affected by it, a need for variety in our living lives. In summary of my essay, it's important that everyone finds that balance between working hard and relaxing, even you, reader. Life isn't meant for routines everyday, so spice up things and play more, and work on relationships with others. Find the balance between work and play.

Score Point 4

In this response the writer presents the clear thesis that it is important to find a balance between work and play “to help with feeling burnt out and bonding with others.” The writer uses a cause-effect structure to organize the idea that an imbalance between time for work and play leads to remorse and feeling discontent with one’s life. Strong sentence-to-sentence connections (“The father, now older and having time to play, regrets his choices, as he was never able to bond with his own son, showing how distant they are now. If only he had played with his son rather than work constantly, he and his son would be closer”) enhance the flow of the essay and make the writer’s thoughts about the importance of taking time to “enjoy the small things” easy to follow. The ideas of the essay are effectively developed with two specific and well-chosen examples that explain how not making time for play can have a negative impact on one’s life. In the first example, the writer explains how the song “Cat’s in the Cradle” exemplifies how overworking can irreversibly damage relationships as it describes how a “hard working dad” neglects a son “who just wants to bond with him.” The writer then presents a hypothetical example that emphasizes how imperative it is for one to escape the doldrums of the everyday routine to avoid “feeling burnt out on it all.” Purposeful, varied, and well-controlled sentences (“When we do the same dull routine every day, we get bored”; “In summary of my essay, It’s important that everyone finds that balance between working hard and relaxing, even you, reader”) further enhance the effectiveness of this accomplished writing performance.

The relationship between work and play is one of utmost contradiction. At two extremes, different ends of the spectrum, the two butt heads vigorously, attempting to find a middle ground. While rather contradictory, work and play are dependent on one another and when balanced effectively, they work together cooperatively and efficiently. Setting aside time to include both these factors aids in the formation of a healthy and necessary balance in life.

Being a US Olympic figure skater and a curved medical student at Yale, it proves to be rather difficult to achieve this holy balance for 17-year-old Nathan Chen. While either studying for upcoming exams or training on the rink for 2022 Winter Olympics, it can be challenging to make time for both his heavy duty work and free time. However, Chen manages to create a balance between the two in his life style and partakes in hobbies such as skateboarding, playing guitar, and buying the latest shoes. The skater has mentioned in past interviews that without the balance between his work and hobbies he'd be overly stressed and less level-headed. Unlike that of the Olympian, scholars, and even adults, fail to realize the benefits of the balance and dependence of the two extremities. Many tend to believe the relationship between work and play is similar to that of a see-saw; while one is up, the other must be down, thus never creating a true balance. In the case of work and play, too much of either factor can negatively impact a person. Too much can lead to the putting off of important work and overall procrastination. Too much of both of the factors can lead to exuberant amounts of stress which can cause depression and/or anxiety. However, a balance between the two can help one maintain good mental health, focus, encouragement, and overall joyous life.

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, it is said, "life is like a box of chocolates." A box of chocolates is fun to eat and brings a certain happiness, but one must still work to earn the saccharine candy. While still contradictory, work and play are evidently dependent on one another and a healthy balance between the two brings forth a sweet result.

Score Point 4

The writer of this response presents the clear thesis that a balance between work and play “can help one maintain good mental health, focus, encouragement, and overall joyous life.” Using a cause-effect structure, the writer warns of the dangers of living one’s life to an extreme instead of finding a “healthy balance” between work and play. Strong sentence-to-sentence connections (“Too much [play] can lead to the putting off of important work and overall procrastination. Too much of both of the factors can lead to exuberant amounts of stress which can cause depression and/or anxiety”) illustrate why time for work and play must be equally divided and contribute to a logical and well-controlled progression of ideas. To demonstrate the benefits of living a well-balanced life, the writer presents the example of Olympian and medical student Nathan Chen and explains how Chen is able to fulfill his responsibilities as a student athlete and enjoy time for “hobbies such as skateboarding, playing guitar, and buying the latest shoes.” The writer further explains how without making time for work and hobbies, Chen would be “overly stressed and less level-headed,” effectively developing the idea that the ability to “find a middle ground” between work and play has a positive impact on one’s overall well-being. The essay reflects thoughtfulness as the writer concludes the response with the comparison of a balance between work and play to a “box of chocolates” for which one has to work to “earn the saccha[r]ine candy” and enjoy a “sweet result.” Purposeful and precise word choice (“utmost contradiction,” “extremely different ends of the spectrum,” “butt heads vigorously,” “work together cooperatively and efficiently,” “formation of a healthy and necessary balance,” “holy balance”) reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and further conveys the dependent nature of the relationship between work and play. For these reasons this response represents an accomplished writing performance.

As the old saying goes, "Another day, another nickel" a phrase used to express boredom with the dull clockwork of daily life. Many counteract the toll hard labor, or labor of any kind, takes by treating themselves to a leisure activity of some sort. People value their "me time," and it shows in how they split their time between travel and recreation. It is important to make time for both work and play because they prevent exhaustion of the body and mind and help to define one's personality. Having a proper balance between work and recreation time is necessary for the sake of health, in terms of overall happiness and sanity. Working forty hours a week or more is sure to take a hit on any given person's well being, so it is important to release stress in some way or another to stay afloat in the charming sea that is life. The way people do so may vary; whether it be trips to the movies, going to the spa or simply staying home to watch shows, everyone releases stress in different ways. Too much of a good thing is not a good thing however, because keeping up with work is but a necessity to financial stability. Though tedious, keeping a balance between the laborious and the leisurely parts of life will help to achieve a fuller sense of joy in the long run. When inquired upon the hobbies they partake in, people would not normally respond with activities such as filing paperwork or attending work conferences. It is key for people to have some kind of pastime outside of work in order to possess a unique defining quality. Some prefer drawing while others may prefer reading, playing sports, playing a musical instrument, or any other recreation. These hobbies help to define people, as there is more to life than their occupation. No matter how people use their free time, the unique ways they do so assist in providing color to their lives and to the world. It is important for people to make time for work and play because it keeps them sane and gives them a sense of individuality. There are many ways for people to unwind after a long day at work, and no two people do so in the same manner. Taking some free time from work is often frowned upon as it is seen as a sign of laziness, but it is actually quite the contrary: it is a way to maintain health and promote personal well-being, as long as it is done in moderation to an extent not detrimental to one's career or physical health. For one to be satisfied with the way they live their life is to reach a truer sense of happiness.

Score Point 4

The writer presents the thesis that "it is important to make time for both work and play because they prevent exhaustion of the body and mind and help to define one's personality." The essay is unified and coherent as the writer sustains focus throughout the entire response on the idea that a balance between time for work and play is essential to achieve "a truer sense of happiness." Using a problem-solution structure, the writer demonstrates how the negative effects of overworking can be remedied by enjoying time for leisure and recreation. Strong sentence-to-sentence connections ("Working forty hours a week or more is sure to take a hit on any given person's well being, so it is important to release stress in some way or another to stay afloat in the charming sea that is life. The way people do so may vary; whether it be trips to the movies, going to the spa, or simply staying home to watch shows, everyone releases stress in different ways") enhance the flow of the essay and make it easy to follow the writer's thoughts about the necessity of "me time." The ideas of the essay are effectively developed as the writer explains that, while work benefits one financially, to "achieve a fuller sense of joy" one must balance "the laborious and the leisurely parts of life." The writer extends this idea by explaining how "hobbies help to define people" and "assist in providing color to their lives," further demonstrating how time for play benefits one's quality of life. Purposeful and precise word choice ("dull clockwork of daily life," "toll," "hard labor," "sure to take a hit") contrasts the negative connotation of work with the favorable nature of play ("treating themselves," "for the sake of health," "overall happiness and sanity," "sense of individuality," "unwind after a long day at work," "promote personal well-being") and maintains a tone appropriate to the expository task. Holistically, this response represents an accomplished writing performance.

Balancing life, dropping burdens, and fulfilling accomplishments are unspoken goals in our lives—we dream to fit these adventures into our busy schedules. What is stopping us from doing these things? The answer, as simple as it may seem, is balance. We need to make and sort our time between work and play. This will bring back continuity, efficiency, and a positive mental attitude into our lives.

The stress and confinement of work is mentally taxing, no matter the details of the job. I, a struggling perfectionist, constantly beat myself over not working “hard enough,” “fast enough,” or “smart enough”—my job as a YouTube Content Creator requires higher-level creativity and social skills, and I can't do my job properly if I hold myself to impossible standards. Mental health is complex and fragile. Breaks from working are rarely offered, and many workaholics out there don't know how much good a moment of peace would do for them. A healthy break can lead to efficiency in the workplace.

Recently, research conducted on Google's employees were released on the internet in the form of YouTube videos. Google introduced a new concept that they called “Twenty Percent Time” for their staff. During this period, no “work” is done. Employees were able to have this fracture time for whatever they would like to do. During this time, over sixty-percent of Google's most popular products were introduced. No one was worried about burdens of work, doing the right or wrong thing, or tasks they had to complete. The staff were able to find a healthy balance of work and resting grace and get their job done without striking the match to ignite burnout.

In the limited time that we're given on Earth, we need to set our priorities straight. We need a balance in our lives. Everyone wants more time, to be the best, to get things done, but these products depend solemnly on our input.

Score Point 4

In this response the writer presents the thesis that a balance between work and play “will bring back continuity, efficiency, and a positive mental attitude into our lives.” The progression of this idea is logical and well controlled with sentence-to-sentence connections (“During [“Twenty Percent Time”], over sixty-percent of Google's most popular products were introduced. No one was worried about burdens of work, doing the right or wrong thing, or tasks they had to complete. The staff were able to find a healthy balance of work and resting grace”) that enhance the flow of the essay and show the relationship between a brief respite from work and higher levels of productivity. The writer effectively develops a specific and well-chosen anecdote of how the writer is a “struggling perfectionist” who has learned that “a moment of peace” is conducive to being more efficient at work and aids in preserving a mental health that is “complex and fragile.” The writer's additional example of how Google's “Twenty Percent Time” benefits the company as well as the employees because the unstructured time prevents “burnout” and promotes ingenuity further develops the idea that a balance between time for work and play produces positive outcomes. Purposeful and precise word choice (“stress and confinement of work,” “mentally taxing,” “impossible standards,” “striking the match to ignite burnout,” “depend solemnly on our input”) clarifies the importance of making time for work and play and reflects a keen awareness of the expository task. For these reasons this response represents an accomplished writing performance.

