High School 2005 Sample Test Prompt

Organization

Adults have influence on young people's lives. Think about the qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Write an essay explaining the most important qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- An explanation of the qualities.
- Specific, appropriate details.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

ORGANIZATION

6 The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The writing is characterized by • effective, perhaps creative, sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • a strong, inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a strong satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed.	**5** The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. The writing is characterized by. • effective sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed.	**4** Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic. The writing is characterized by • clear sequencing. • an organization that may be predictable. • a recognizable, developed beginning that may not be particularly inviting; a developed conclusion that may lack subtlety. • a body that is easy to follow with details that fit where placed. • transitions that may be stilted or formulaic. • organization which helps the reader, despite some weaknesses.
3 An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal. The writing is characterized by • attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas may occasionally be unclear. • a beginning and an ending which, although present, are either undeveloped or too obvious (e.g. "My topic is...", "These are all the reasons that…") • transitions that sometimes work. The same few transitional devices (e.g., coordinating conjunctions, numbering, etc.) may be overused. • a structure that is skeletal or too rigid. • placement of details that may not always be effective. • organization which lapses in some places, but helps the reader in others.	**2** The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. An occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is either difficult to follow and the reader has to reread substantial portions, or the piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills. The writing is characterized by • some attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas is frequently unclear. • a missing or extremely undeveloped beginning, body, and/or ending. • a lack of transitions, or when present, ineffective or overused. • a lack of an effective organizational structure. • details that seem to be randomly placed, leaving the reader frequently confused.	**1** The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused. The writing is characterized by • a lack of effective sequencing. • a failure to provide an identifiable beginning, body and/or ending. • a lack of transitions. • pacing that is consistently awkward; the reader feels either mired down in trivia or rushed along too rapidly. • a lack of organization which ultimately obscures or distorts the main point.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: **Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**

FINAL COPY

I admire all My Theachers helping
Me get this for in school.
I adment that I don't get good
grades. I adment that I have
got this for in school. With
all My Theachers helper I f
I did not have my theachers
help I probley would not be
this for in school but I am.
glade. That I hade there help and
in two more years I will
graduating out of high school
and after high school I am going
to go to Collage to try to
become a nurse. if I get
a job as a nurse I am going
to save up to get a house.
and Car.

Score Point 1 – Organization is haphazard and disjointed throughout. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused. The lack of organization…obscures the main point. The writer begins by introducing a teacher, but fails to organize information about the teacher effectively. The end of the paper is personal, not about the teacher.

Writing

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The adult that I admire is my dad. I admire him because he is a hard worker. He does what he needs to do for Ower Famil. He is there when we need him. We are there when he needs us.

One of the important qualites that I admire about my dad is that he always has time for me. Even when he workes foul time. He suports ower famil by working. When I need help to do thing he is always there to help me. If I need advise on thing or just need to talk he is there.

I think that is one important qualite that a parent need's to have when you have kids. YOU need to be there for your kids when they need you the most. that is just part of being a parent.

Score Point 2 – The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. The writer shows attempts at sequencing and an occasional organizational device. The beginning is not inviting, the body is underdeveloped, and the ending has no sense of closure.

Writing

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In today culture it is important for adults to demonstrate good qualities. One of the qualities that adults should is responsibility. Also they should show respect and compasion. Thes are all very important behavors that adults should show.

The reson adults should show responsbliity is because young people need to see how important being responsable is. If you see an adult not being responsable you may think that it is ok not to be responsible for your actions. That is why it is impoctant for adults to show responsibility.

It is also impoctant for adults to show respect. If you see an adult not respecting someone you may think it is ok to disrespect people. It is impoctant to show respect for people because how would you feel if no one respected you. That is why it is impoctant for adults to show respect.

Adults should also show compasion. It is impoctant to feel strongly about some things. If adults did not show compation there would be less sempatly in the world. That is why adults should show compation.

That is why it is impocktant for adults to show good qualities. They show us how we should act. That is all.

Score Point 3 – Writing shows attempts at organization. The beginning is acceptable, but the conclusion is very weak. The same few transitional devices are overused: "also"; "important"; and "that is why". "That is all" is not an acceptable conclusion.

Writing

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Most of the adults that influences me tend to have three of same traits. One of the traits is being an athlete. Also they have to be good public speakers. I love a person who knows what to say and when to say it. The last trait is that they help out their communities.

The reason athletes influence me a lot is that I want to be an athlete too. Athletes are great at what they do, and make it look so easy. To try to help me in my dreams; I watch the great athletes play in their sports. I study what they do before games and during the games. They influence me by showing that hard work does pay off. Athletes influence me especially by what they do.

Public speakers also influence me, but in a different way. Me, I am afraid to talk in front of big crowds. I enjoy seeing people stand-up, speak their mind, and state the facts. I try hard to not get nervous, but somehow I always get nervous. Public speakers influence me because they are not afraid to say what they believe. They don't care what other people think. They are determined to get their voice heard. So, because of these reasons public speaker influence me in a great way.

Go On

Writing

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The last kind of adult that influences me, is adults that help the community. This kind of adult shows me that I do make a huge impact on the world. They show me that I can help fix or make better of the world. An adult that takes the time to help out the community, without pay, is a great person. They try to make it easier for others, instead of worrying about themselves. I am most influenced by this type of adult.

In the end I am influence by all kinds of adults. Although, I pay special attention to these who are helpers, great speakers, and athletes. I feel if I can be all of these in one, I will be a great person. I'll also make a impact on the world. So hopefully, I can watch and learn from the greatest.

Score Point 4 – Order and structure are present, but are formulaic. There is clear sequencing, but organization is predictable. The beginning and ending are recognizable, but do not command the reader's attention. "Most of the adults that influences me tend to have three of some traits." And "in the end,…" are not effective. Organization helps the reader, despite some weaknesses.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: **Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**

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We live in a world of choices. Our actions, appearance and attitude all resulted from the plethora of choices we made. Yet, as a youth, I look towards the adults in my life for guidance and examples. It is their choices to live with wise decisions that has afforded them their livlihoods and family. They made wise choices and acquired many admirable qualities. Out of all these traits, my Mother's dedication, my father's daring and strength, and my grandmother's faith and heart stand out and blended to create the medley of life that is me.

In our backyard, an amazing garden blooms. The zuchinni, tomatos, and cucumbers grow with vibrance: our orange trees are overladen by fruits. Each day, rain or shine, I could find my mother out with her gardening gloves, watering her beloved plants, checking for insects, and adding fertilizer. Her commitment to this hobby is honest and unwavering. Yet, this quality is present in everything she does. Two years ago, she aspired to obtain her masters degree. Despite many difficulties and turbulent events, she always stayed with her promise. Last month, she received her diploma. Her dedication in the face of difficulty and discouragement is admirable and inspiring.

In the wake of the faltering economy, my father lost his previous job with Motorola. Yet, as many people in the same predicament lost hope of finding another job, my father seized it as an opportunity to start a new career. He never showed worry around my sister and I, yet I knew he was very preoccupied. I am reminded of the quote, "A fool has no fear: A hero doesn't show it." Indeed, he never showed any sign of doubt in his

Go On

Writing

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actions, and soon after found a career with a small company. Through daring proposals and inteligence, he rose quickly to the shift of manager. Due to his courage in the face of unemployment and his daring ventures, he now receives twice his previous income.

It was fortunate that he found the job when he did, for around then, my grandpa suffered a stroke and passed away soon after. My grandma sold her house and moved in with us at my mother's suggesting. I never knew what to say to grandma — I was afraid to cause painful memories. Yet, grandma always had a smile upon her face; and she told me this: "people live to die, sweetheart. Since you are born, you begin your journey to death and heaven beyond this life. We mourn for those who pass before us, yet we know that we will join them soon. So although I miss him dreadfully, I can rest in knowing he's in a happier place."

our family is the results of many choices: the choice of dedication and commitment from my mother, the choice of leading our family with strength from my father, and the choice of faith and love from my grandma. These qualities, each its best for each of my parents, are what I strive to live by and exemplify, so perhaps one day I can be the role model for my own children. ∞

Score Point 5 – Writing has an inviting beginning and a satisfying ending. The organization enhances the central idea and its development. Effective sequencing allows the reader to follow the development easily. The overall structure of the paper fits the topic. The writer does not rely on formulaic transitions but develops each paragraph with sophistication that keeps the reader involved.

Writing

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The Ones Who Held Me Up

Every child looks up to someone, whether it be their parents, teachers, or anyone else. I also look up to two important figures of my life. These adults have influenced me in every way to improve my life. They make me capable of doing all that I can do. They lift my spirits when I am down. Whenever I need a helping hand, theirs reaches out to me. In this gigantic world, I never feel alone because they are always there for me. They are providers of life and so much more. These incredible people, who contain numerous qualities I wish to incorporate in my later life, are none other than my parents.

Truthfully, life would be meaningless for me without my parent's optimism that sprouts my many dreams. At every step of my life, they stand behind me and root for my success. Their intense sanguinity allows me to maintain straight A's in school. It also aids in forming my aspiration to pursue a medical career. As I leave my house each morning and my parents say to me, "Good luck," I know that it is this optimism and backing that guides me through each phase of my life.

Just as their optimism aids me, my parents' helpful nature allows me to always believe in myself. I know that whenever I do not understand a math problem, my dad will always be available to assist me. My mom is always there to solve any problems I may have while writing an essay. The truth is that my parents supportiveness permits me to have faith in myself

Writing

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and feel superior. Helpfulness is one quality of my mother and father's that I admire deeply.

As helpful and optimistic as they are, my parents' outstanding quality is their extreme understanding. I have numerous experiences, in which I would have completely fallen apart, if my parents did not listen to me caringly and help solve my problem. Just last week, I returned from a Speech and Debate tournament that I had lost and my mom helped me understand that there will be other chances. Also, whenever I get too worried about a test, my dad takes me out to ice cream and we discuss the issue. This discussion causes me to calm down and feel at ease with myself. I am the type of person who easily stresses out and though this is a horrible quality, my parents' understanding nature helps me to keep my stress under control.

Every child has an idol and I was blessed with two- my parents. They are the ideal optimists, who gaide through life. Help is readily available from them and this help keeps up my faith. They are understanding and caring in every sense of the words. Sometimes I wonder what I would do without my parents and then I know the answer: I would be nothing; I would not be.

Score Point 6 – Paper has a strong, inviting beginning and smooth, effective transitions. Transitions create a flow within and between paragraphs. Creative sequencing allows for ease of reading. Order and structure are compelling. The body reinforces organization, both within and between paragraphs, and ideas flow clearly. The use of the four-word clause "I would not be" provides a compelling conclusion to the paper.