High School 2005 Sample Test Prompt

Word Choice

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.

WORD CHOICE

6 Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by • accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing. • fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used.	**5** Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.	**4** Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by • words that work but do not particularly energize the writing. • expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective. • attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone. • occasional overuse of technical language or jargon. • rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.
3 Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of "generic" paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by • words that work, but that rarely capture the reader's interest. • expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective. • attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced. • words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used. • reliance on clichés and overused expressions.	**2** Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by • words that are colorless, flat or imprecise. • monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message. • images that are fuzzy or absent altogether.	**1** The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by • general, vague words that fail to communicate. • an extremely limited range of words. • words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: **Write your first draft on the following lines. Look back at the writing prompt a prewriting plan on page 1 as you write your draft.**

DRAFT

I like My dad because, he is alwas trying to be with me on good times or bad times.

Is always teaching me how to do new stuff, he was the one that teach me how to play base ball, he is the one that teached me all the thing's that I know.

He is always telling me how to do all this stuff, like when I have some questions about anything tell me everything about what I asked hem, and to go in the right way on this life.

Score Point 1 – Writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary. General, vague words fail to communicate. Language is imprecise. Words such as "stuff", "things", "everything", and "anything" are weak choices.

Writing

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

FINAL COPY

There are many important qualities that adults express and demonstrate to young people every day. Many people have experienced the same situations that young people are going through. Fortunately those experiences have made them more wise. It is very important to be aware of the qualities that adult influence the young people because it is the reason for their actions and the way they act.

The most important qualities that adults influence young people today, should be the same for everyone. The first quality is their maturity level is higher than the younger people. They are able to present to young people that breaking the law is not something to joke with. Another quality is that they know best to cope with the problems young people are facing, because they have lived through it before. The adults should pass on the qualities to the young because one day they will be in the adults sh

All of these qualities are important. Young people need to listen and learn because it will help them. These you will need as you progress in life. All of these will be critical for the future.

Score Point 2 – Paper has language that is monotonous. The writer uses the words "quality" and "important" far too often. Also, in the last sentence in paragraph one, "…because it is the reason for their actions and the way they act" is redundant and empty.

Writing

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

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In my opinion I think adults have a big influence on young people's lives. I think young people look up to adults for guidance, and their characteristics determine if that person is going to trust and respect that adult. I know when I look up to an adult they have to have some special qualities.

One of the adults I admire is my mom. Why? Well I'll tell you why I admire her. One reason is because she is a strong-willed and independant person. One way is that she doesnt need anyone to tell her what she can and cant do. If she sets her mind to something she can, and will do it. Another reason is because she is a very hard-worker. An example is if something needs to get done at work or at home at a certain time she will try 110% to make sure it is done when she says it will be.

Another person I admire is one of my teachers. A reason why is because she is tuff when she needs to be and helpful and kind when it's called for. She is successful, educated, and intelligent. Those are all great qualities.

There are other adults I admire, but those are the two I admire most. However, there are lots more

Writing

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qualities I look for in adults. In addition to being all the qualities I named I also look for someone who is respectful and doesint look down on people like them, generous, and always ready to share wisdom and knowledge. I think those are all great qualities to have. I also believe anyone who has all theese qualities is probably a great person.

Score Point 3 – Language is quite ordinary, lacking precision and variety. The words used rarely capture the reader's interest. Words such as "admire", "reason", "something" and "lots" are repeated and lack precise meaning. The writer relies on clichés and overused expressions, for example, "sets her mind to it" and "110%".

Writing

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

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When thinking of an adult with good qualities, I can't help but picture someone with many of the same qualities as my mom. I picture somebody that is trustworthy, respectful, loving, and so much more. My mom has an attitude towards life that makes everyone else smile.

Being a trustworthy adult is very important. If we want to succeed in life it is a great quality to have. When people trust us in our workplace, or at home, we can learn to trust others. It is good to know others can confide in us when they have problems in their life. It may be a small problem or a big problem, but they should trust us to comfort them. Trust helps us keep faith in each other.

When my mom respects me she makes me feel important. She lets me know she wants to hear my ideas or thoughts. My mom respects the decisions I make in my life, whether they be good or bad, and lets me learn from my own mistakes. She has always been there to support or comfort me, no matter what the outcome of my decision. Although she is very respectful, she believes you have to give respect to earn it. Respect has always, and will always, be a big part of our lives.

Although respect and trust are great qualities for an adult to have, love is the most important quality. When adults show their love towards others it makes everyone feel

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Writing

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special. Knowing someone I admire loves me gives me a feeling of self-confidence. Adults should always show their love, even if it's just by saying, "I love you." If someone so special to me can love me back, it lets me know that there are great reasons for living.

My mom has always been someone I look up to. She has many great qualities that make her the most admirable adult in the world to me. She taught me her three most valuable qualities; to trust, to respect, and to love. Having these qualities has made her a respected adult. She has gone far in life, but having these qualities will only let her go further.

Score Point 4 – Words effectively convey the message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The words work, but do not always energize the writing. One notable exception, the last sentence in paragraph one: "My mom has an attitude toward life that makes everyone smile" is truly a fine moment.

Writing

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

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Without adults and the decisions they make, society could never function. Not all adults display the qualities essential to a civil world, but those that do must carry all of the following qualities: orginization, common sense, and maturity. Without these qualities to look up to, today's youth would never be ready for the world's expectations.

One quality that lacks in the lives of youth, but flourishes in the lives of adults is orginization. Every occupation in our society requires orginization to function properly. Those in the medical field have records to keep track of, and calendars to watch. Administrators have grades to enter, and attendance to take. Even the man that moves your nearest park would be out of a job if not for orginization in his work. An orginized way of life is critical to a civil society.

The next quality I admire in adults is one of such simplicity it seems insignificant, but without common sense, our nation would wilt. One classic example of a society lacking in common sense is found in William Golding's "Lord of the Flies." In this story, young boys are stranded on a desert island, and without logical desicions quickly turn to savegery. If not

Writing

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for a logical, and developed way of thinking in adult lives, youth would have nothing to look up to.

Lastly, we must view an adult quality that is, in fact, what makes a human an adult; maturity. In the hole properly occupied by maturity, youth fill with impulsiveness and pleasure. Every day, people over and under the age of eighteen are confronted with situations that affect the lives of others, but maturity determines the outcome of such confrentations, not age.

America is a great country because it's people are constantly making it a great country. With out orginized, logical, and mature adults, none of us would be where we are today.

Score Point 5 – Words convey the intended message in an interesting and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. Vocabulary is, at times, striking: "our nation would wilt." The writer uses ordinary words in an unusual way: "…hole properly occupied by maturity youth fill with impulsiveness and pleasure." Paper is interesting because of the wide range of words employed.

Writing

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

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From the time children first acknowledge the difference between themselves and adults, they start to look for ways to live in this world, both emotionally and physically. Many parents are said to have the same attributes as their children when observed by another because the child is acting as a mirror. Monitoring the adult's every move and trying it for himself. In this way, children are like scientists. They poke. They prod. They observe. All efforts trying to grasp ways in which to live, and, through some deduction, each child chooses a handful of people they find exemplary to the human race. My choises include: Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou, and my mother.

During the Civil Rights Movement, there was one remarkable figure that stood out from all others, Martin Luther King Jr. No matter how hard people tried to stop him, they were unable, for he had dreams not obtainable by others. Dreams are what make everything progress. Without them, the human race would be stuck in an endless cycle of monotony. However, because one dared to dream, we live in a more accepting world today. Both African Americans and Caucasions can eat in the same restaurant, drink the same water, and go to the same schools. If it were not for Martin Luther King Jr. people, humans, still would not be treated as humans and the ability of one dream would be unknown.

Another adult, I both admire and respect, is Maya Angelou. She stands for intelligence and courage. Although Angelou matured

Writing

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in a time when both Blacks and women were thought of as possessions a little more unruly than horses, she had the courage to learn and spread her message throughout the world in writing. It was her voice that gave encouragement to millions at the Million Man March, and it is through her voice, he accomplishments, that runs through my soul giving me strength to think what I choose. Undoubtedly, Maya Angelou is a hero of our time.

Although I find much strength and hope through the previous adults mentioned, there is one person who has always been there as a testimony of love and forgiveness, my mother. As a child my mother grew up in a household run by alcoholics and was abused by a repairman who often came to their home. Despite these obstacles, however, my mother found the strength to carry on and to start to trust once again. It was in and through herself she found healing. My only hope, my only desire, is that I to have that strength and forgiveness which nursed her back to health.

Out of all the adults, past and present, these are the chosen few I choose to admire. With every question and challenge I come upon I turn to them for hope, courage, and strength. It is through these astonishing men and women I am who I am today. It is through their qualities that the world is changed.

Score Point 6 – The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, such as "poke", "prod", "cycle of monotony", and "exemplary". The paper is fresh and original. The writer's word choices are exceptionally appropriate for audience and purpose. Vocabulary is striking and varied, but is not overdone.