

Week 15

AP English Language and Composition

Homework bundle for this week

本周作业合集

exercises.lol

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AP English Language and Composition

Name: _____ Score: _____

1. Commentary should explain...

- ☐ what the evidence says
- ☐ the relationship of the evidence to the claim
- ☐ where the evidence came from
- ☐ how long the evidence is

2. "This shows the policy failed" is best described as...

- ☐ strong commentary
- ☐ an announcement of a relationship without an explanation
- ☐ evidence
- ☐ a thesis

3. Select **all** the levels at which the CED says coherence occurs.

- ☐ within a sentence
- ☐ within a paragraph
- ☐ across the whole text
- ☐ within a word

Tick every correct option.

4. Beyond creating coherence, a transition can...

- ☐ increase word count
- ☐ introduce evidence and indicate its relationship to other ideas
- ☐ replace commentary
- ☐ state the thesis

5. Connotation is...

- ☐ what a word refers to
- ☐ what a word carries with it
- ☐ the length of a word
- ☐ a word's origin

6. Examiners reward control, which is visible in...

- ☐ vocabulary range

- ☐ accuracy
- ☐ sentence length
- ☐ paragraph count

7. Read the claim, skip the evidence, read the commentary — they should still _____.

8. Select **all** the sentence types that are **not** commentary.

- ☐ restating the evidence in different words
- ☐ restating the claim in different words
- ☐ announcing that the evidence proves the claim
- ☐ explaining why the evidence bears on the claim

Tick every correct option.

9. A transitional element can be a whole paragraph.

- ☐ True ☐ False

10. Adjectives and adverbs modify what they describe without conveying a perspective.

- ☐ True ☐ False

AP English Language and Composition

1. **the relationship of the evidence to the claim**

Restating the evidence is summary; explaining the **relationship** is commentary.

2. **an announcement of a relationship without an explanation**

The word **shows** is where an explanation should begin, not end.

3. **within a sentence; within a paragraph; across the whole text**

Coherence is a relation between ideas, so a single word is not a level.

4. **introduce evidence and indicate its relationship to other ideas**

That second job is the one that earns marks.

5. **what a word carries with it**

Denotation refers; **connotation** carries. Two words can share the first and differ in the second.

6. **accuracy**

An impressive word used slightly wrongly reads as a loss of control.

7. **connect**

If the commentary needs the quotation in view to make sense, it is summary.

8. **restating the evidence in different words; restating the claim in different words; announcing that the evidence proves the claim**

The fourth is the only one that explains a relationship.

9. **True**

The CED explicitly includes paragraphs among transitional elements.

10. **False**

The CED says descriptive words **also convey a perspective** — a modifier is never neutral.

5.1 Describing the line of reasoning

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to describe a line of reasoning in a passage whose **organisation** is complex.

You must be able to:

- trace reasoning that is interrupted by a digression or a long example
- describe reasoning that runs from effect back to cause
- identify a reasoning move that is made by structure rather than by a stated claim
- separate the order of presentation from the order of dependence

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Presentation against dependence

A passage may present C, then A, then B while B depends on A and A on C. The line of reasoning is the **dependence**, not the page order. Say so where they differ.

■ Reasoning backwards

Some arguments begin from a visible effect and work back: this is happening, so something must be producing it. That is a legitimate line of reasoning and should be described in its own direction.

■ Structural moves

Placing two paragraphs side by side can assert a parallel without any sentence claiming it. Naming that as a reasoning move — an implied comparison — is a strong observation.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between the order of presentation and the order of dependence.[2]

2.2 Explain how an argument can reason from effect to cause. [2]

2.3 Two paragraphs are placed side by side with no stated connection.

(a) State what the placement may assert. [1]

(b) State how you would describe it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A line of reasoning is best described as the order of [1]

- A paragraphs on the page
- B dependence between claims
- C sentences by length
- D evidence by date

3.2 An argument that begins with an observed effect and infers a cause is [1]

- A invalid by definition
- B a legitimate line of reasoning
- C a summary
- D a concession

3.3 A passage interrupts its argument with a two-paragraph anecdote.

(a) State one legitimate function the interruption may serve. [1]

(b) Explain how you would show it does or does not serve the reasoning. [2]

Solutions

2.1 presentation is the order on the page; dependence is which claims must be accepted before others can be made.

2.2 it begins from a visible effect and infers what must be producing it.

2.3 (a) an implied comparison or parallel. (b) as a reasoning move made by structure rather than by a stated claim.

3.1 B. dependence, not sequence, defines the reasoning.

3.2 B. inference from effect to cause is a standard argumentative move.

3.3 (a) making an abstract claim concrete, or securing attention before a difficult step. (b) test whether the argument would still hold without it: if the following claim depends on it, it serves the reasoning; if not, it is a digression.

5.2 Developing a line of reasoning and commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to develop reasoning whose **commentary** does the connecting work.

You must be able to:

- write transitional commentary that states a dependence, not a topic change
- signal a qualification without weakening the claim
- carry one argument across four or more paragraphs
- diagnose a paragraph that has lost its connection

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Transitional commentary

Weak: “Another point is cost.” Strong: “If the harm is as widespread as the figures suggest, the question is no longer whether to act but who pays.” The second states the dependence; the first announces a topic.

■ Qualifying without weakening

“This does not hold where the population is small” narrows the claim and strengthens it, because it shows the writer knows the limits. “This may or may not be true” abandons it.

■ Diagnosing a lost paragraph

If you cannot state in one sentence what the previous paragraph had to establish for this one to be possible, the connection is missing. That test locates the problem quickly.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between announcing a topic and stating a dependence. [2]

2.2 Explain how a qualification can strengthen a claim. [2]

2.3 A paragraph on staffing follows one on cost, connected only by “Also”.

(a) State the weakness. [1]

(b) Write a better transition. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “This holds only where transport is already frequent” is [1]

- **A** an abandonment of the claim
- **B** a qualification that strengthens it
- **C** a topic announcement
- **D** a thesis

3.2 The quickest test of a lost connection is whether you can state [1]

- **A** the paragraph’s length
- **B** what the previous paragraph had to establish for this one
- **C** the number of examples
- **D** the writer’s tone

3.3 Write two consecutive sentences — the last of one paragraph and the first of the next

— that carry an argument from “the problem is real” to “the remedy is affordable”. [4]

Solutions

2.1 announcing a topic states what comes next; stating a dependence explains why what comes next follows from what came before.

2.2 it narrows the claim to where it holds, showing the writer knows the limits, so the remaining claim is more credible.

2.3 (a) “Also” announces addition without stating any dependence. (b) a transition that names the dependence, e.g. “If the cost is bearable, the remaining obstacle is whether the staff exist to deliver it”.

3.1 B. a stated limit makes the remaining claim more credible.

3.2 B. that sentence is the connection; if it cannot be written, it is missing.

3.3 the first sentence closes on what has been established; the second opens on what that makes possible, without announcing a topic.

5.3 Organization, unity, and coherence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS unity 统一 • coherence 连贯 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to test a text for **unity** 统一 and **coherence** 连贯.

You must be able to:

- define unity and coherence and tell them apart
- test a paragraph for unity in one step
- identify a coherence failure that is not a unity failure
- reorganise a passage that has both problems

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Two different properties

Unity: everything in the unit belongs to one claim. **Coherence:** the parts are ordered and connected so the reader can follow. A paragraph can be unified and incoherent — all on one claim, in an order nobody can follow.

■ Testing unity

Write the claim of the paragraph in one sentence. Any sentence that does not serve it breaks unity. This takes seconds and finds most problems.

■ Coherence failures

Sentences in a defensible order but with no signalled relationship; pronouns whose referents are unclear; a shift of subject without warning. Each leaves the reader assembling the argument themselves.

2 Practice

2.1 Define unity and coherence. [2]

2.2 State the one-step test for unity. [2]

2.3 A paragraph's sentences all support one claim but appear in an order that jumps.

(a) State which property is intact. [1]

(b) State which fails. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A paragraph containing one sentence on an unrelated point fails on [1]

- **A** unity
- **B** coherence
- **C** both equally
- **D** neither

3.2 Unclear pronoun reference is primarily a failure of [1]

- **A** unity
- **B** coherence
- **C** thesis
- **D** evidence

3.3 A passage's paragraphs are individually unified but appear in an order that makes the argument hard to follow.

(a) State the failure. [1]

(b) Explain how you would repair it.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 unity: everything belongs to one claim; coherence: the parts are ordered and connected so the reader can follow.

2.2 write the paragraph's claim in one sentence; any sentence not serving it breaks unity.

2.3 (a) unity. (b) coherence.

3.1 A. the unrelated sentence does not belong to the claim.

3.2 B. the reader cannot follow the connection.

3.3 (a) coherence at the level of the whole text. (b) reorder the paragraphs by dependence and add transitions that state what each depends on.

5.4 Using transitional elements

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS transitions 过渡 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to use **transitions** 过渡 that carry meaning.

You must be able to:

- match a transition to the relationship it signals
- avoid transitions that assert a relationship the sentences do not have
- vary transitions without losing precision
- replace a list of additive transitions with argued connections

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Transitions signal relationships

Addition: moreover, in addition. **Contrast:** however, yet. **Cause:** therefore, consequently. **Concession:** granted, admittedly. **Example:** for instance. Each names a relationship, and the wrong one misleads.

■ A false signal

“Therefore” between two sentences with no causal link tells the reader something untrue about the argument. It is worse than no transition, because it hides the gap.

■ Beyond addition

An essay whose transitions are all “also”, “another”, “furthermore” is a list. Argument needs contrast, cause and concession — the transitions that mark dependence.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the relationship signalled by “however” and by “consequently”. [2]

2.2 Explain why a false transition is worse than none. [2]

2.3 An essay uses “also” and “another” between every paragraph.

(a) State what this reveals about the structure. [1]

(b) State one better transition to use. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “Granted” most precisely signals [1]

- A addition
- B concession
- C cause
- D example

3.2 An essay of purely additive transitions is best described as [1]

- A a tight argument
- B a list
- C a concession
- D a comparison

3.3 Two sentences are connected by “therefore” but the second does not follow from the first.

(a) State the effect on the reader. [1]

(b) Explain how you would repair the passage.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 “however”: contrast; “consequently”: cause or result.

2.2 it asserts a relationship the sentences do not have, hiding the gap rather than leaving it visible.

2.3 (a) the paragraphs are a list, not a line of reasoning. (b) any transition marking dependence, e.g. “if that holds, then...”.

3.1 B. it grants a point before qualifying it.

3.2 B. addition alone shows no dependence.

3.3 (a) the reader looks for a causal link and cannot find it, losing trust. (b) either supply the missing step that makes the inference valid, or replace “therefore” with a transition that names the real relationship.

5.5 Word choice, comparisons, and syntax

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks**KEY WORDS** syntax 句法 • diction 用词 • parallel structure 平行结构 • repetition 重复 • style 文体

Objective

Build the skills to analyse **diction** 用词, **comparison** and **syntax** 句法.

You must be able to:

- describe the connotation of a word choice, not only its meaning
- explain what a metaphor or analogy asks the reader to accept
- describe a syntactic pattern and its effect
- link any of these to purpose

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Connotation

“Firm” and “stubborn” describe the same behaviour and evaluate it oppositely. Naming the connotation, and what it does for the writer’s purpose, is the analysis; naming the word is not.

■ What a comparison claims

Every metaphor imports a structure. Calling a debate a “battle” makes opponents enemies and compromise a defeat. Ask what the comparison licenses the reader to think.

■ Syntax

Short sentences after long ones create emphasis. A long periodic sentence that delays its main verb builds suspense. Repetition of a structure — parallelism — makes items feel equivalent and complete.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between a word’s meaning and its connotation. [2]

2.2 Explain what calling a debate a “battle” asks the reader to accept. [2]

2.3 A paragraph of long sentences ends with a three-word sentence.

(a) State the effect. [1]

(b) State how you would link it to purpose. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Choosing “stubborn” rather than “firm” mainly changes [1]

- **A** the denotation
- **B** the evaluation carried by the word
- **C** the sentence length
- **D** the audience

3.2 Parallel structure across three clauses tends to make the items feel [1]

- **A** unrelated
- **B** equivalent and complete
- **C** contradictory
- **D** hypothetical

3.3 A writer describes a policy as “a lifeline”.

(a) State what the metaphor imports. [1]

(b) Explain what it forecloses.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 meaning is what the word refers to; connotation is the evaluation or association it carries.

2.2 that the parties are enemies rather than participants, and that compromise would be a defeat rather than an outcome.

2.3 (a) emphasis — the short sentence lands hard after the long ones. (b) state what is emphasised and why the writer wants that point to land.

3.1 B. the denotation is the same; the evaluation is not.

3.2 B. parallelism suggests equivalence and closure.

3.3 (a) rescue from drowning — urgency and the absence of alternatives. (b) it forecloses debate about whether the policy is the right remedy, since refusing a lifeline is not a position anyone can defend.

2. The following is a passage from the introduction to David Treuer's 2012 nonfiction book *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life*. Treuer is a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, a tribal nation in Minnesota. In *Rez Life*, Treuer draws on research and personal experience to explore the history of reservations and the issues that affect Native Americans who live on them today. A reservation is an area of land governed by a tribal nation in what is now the United States. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Treuer makes to develop his argument about the contributions that Native Americans and their communities have made to the United States.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Par.

- 1 [T]he sign reads: WELCOME TO THE LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION HOME OF THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE PLEASE KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN, PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES NO SPECIAL LICENCES REQUIRED FOR HUNTING, FISHING, OR TRAPPING.
- 2 If you're driving—as since this is America is most likely the case—the sign is soon behind you and soon forgotten. However, something is different about life on one side of it and life on the other. It's just hard to say exactly what. The landscape is unchanged. The same pines, and the same swamps, hay fields, and jeweled lakes dropped here and there among the trees, exist on both sides of the sign. The houses don't look all that different, perhaps a little smaller, a little more ramshackle. The children playing by the road do look different, though. Darker. The cars, most of them, seem older. And perhaps something else is different, too.
- 3 You can see these kinds of signs all over America. There are roughly 310 Indian reservations in the United States, though the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) doesn't have a sure count of how many reservations there are (this might say something about the BIA, or it might say something about the nature of reservations). Not all of the 564 federally recognized tribes in the United States have reservations. Some Indians don't have reservations, but all reservations have Indians, and all reservations have signs. There are tribal areas in Brazil, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, among many other countries. But reservations as we know them are, with the exception of Canada, unique to America. You can see these signs in more than thirty of the states, but most of them are clustered in the last places to be permanently settled by Europeans: the Great Plains, the Southwest, the Northwest, and along the Canadian border stretching from Montana to New York. You can see them in the middle of the desert, among the strewn rocks of the Badlands, in the suburbs of Green Bay, and within the misty spray of Niagara Falls. Some of the reservations that these signs announce are huge. There are twelve reservations in the United States bigger than the state of Rhode Island. Nine reservations are larger than Delaware (named after a tribe that was pushed from the region). Some reservations are so small that the sign itself seems larger than the land it denotes. Most reservations are poor. A few have become wealthy. In 2007 the Seminole bought the Hard Rock Café franchise. The Oneida of Wisconsin

helped renovate Lambeau Field in Green Bay. And whenever Brett Favre¹ (who claims Chickasaw blood) scored a touchdown there as a Packer, a Jet, or a Minnesota Viking, he did it under Oneida lights cheered on by fans sitting on Oneida bleachers, not far from the Oneida Nation itself.

- 4 Indian reservations, and those of us who live on them, are as American as apple pie, baseball, and muscle cars. Unlike apple pie, however, Indians contributed to the birth of America itself. The Oneida were allies of the Revolutionary Army who fed U.S. troops at Valley Forge and helped defeat the British in New York, and the Iroquois Confederacy served as one of the many models for the American constitution. Marx and Engels² also cribbed from the Iroquois as they developed their theories of communism. Indians have been disproportionately involved in every war America has fought since its first, including one we're fighting now: on July 27, 2007, the last soldiers of Able Company 2nd-136th Combined Arms battalion returned home to Bemidji, Minnesota, after serving twenty-two months of combat duty in Iraq. At the time Able Company was the most deployed company in the history of the Iraq War and was also deployed in Afghanistan and Bosnia. Some of the members of Able Company are Indians from reservations in northern Minnesota.
- 5 Despite how *involved* in America's business Indians have been, most people will go a lifetime without ever knowing an Indian or spending any time on an Indian reservation. Indian land makes up 2.3 percent of the land in the United States. We number slightly over 2 million (up significantly from not quite 240,000 in 1900). It is pretty easy to avoid us and our reservations. Yet Americans are captivated by Indians. Indians are part of the story that America tells itself, from the first Thanksgiving to the Boston Tea Party up through Crazy Horse, the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and Custer's Last Stand.

1: professional football player who was a quarterback in the National Football League

2: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, nineteenth-century German philosophers who cowrote *The Communist Manifesto*

2. Raquel Vasquez Gilliland is a Mexican American poet, novelist, and painter whose works focus on myths, folklore, motherhood, and plants. In 2023 she published an opinion article in *The New York Times* titled “Go Outside, Sink Your Feet Into the Dirt and Engage With the World.” The following is an excerpt from that opinion article. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Vasquez Gilliland makes to develop her argument about the value of engaging with nature.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer’s rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Par.

- 1 My grandmother and mother also taught me that the natural world around us has stories to tell if you listen closely. After all, language is not unique to humans. One of my earliest memories is sitting on my grandmother’s cracked concrete porch, watching one of the many doves she had nursed back to health land in her raised hand after she called out to it. When dark storm clouds gathered over the half-finished roof, my mother would take a steak knife from the kitchen to the sky to cut the rain away. My friends thought it was magical how nature seemed to bend to their will.
- 2 It makes sense, then, that I became an author, that my life is built around stories—that the idea of my first novel came tumbling to me when I was out on a walk, as if a piece of the sky had been cut over me. And whenever I am overwhelmed or anxious or stuck in my work, my mother’s advice to me is always the same: Go outside. Be in nature.
- 3 Our busy schedules can make it hard to find time to spend in nature, and it may seem especially hard in urban areas. But at a time when so many Americans are struggling with loneliness and isolation, spending a few moments outdoors can help us feel more connected.
- 4 Fortunately, there are several easy things you can do to get out in nature, no matter where you live. You can start by sinking your bare feet in a patch of dirt and consider the ways by which the soil nourishes the plants and animals that in turn nourish us. Maybe you can find a tree to befriend, be it a pine, mango or tulip tree. Use all your senses to engage with it—observe its leaves, feel the smooth wrinkles of its bark.
- 5 When I lived in New York and Los Angeles, I’d have to hike very far to find a piece of nature to be in—the rare tree in downtown Los Angeles, the canopy of ginkgoes near Inwood Hill Park in New York City. Now, in East Tennessee, I walk a few steps past my porch, into my garden—two small strips of land that flank my two-story white and turquoise farmhouse.

- 6 When I first moved here, nonnative European grass blanketed the thirsty clay, red as dried blood. I bought a shovel and set about digging up eight garden beds in the middle of that grass, filling them with plants native to my region: coneflowers and aromatic aster, bee balm and Virginia blue bells. I tried growing squash, peppers, yellow watermelon and white eggplant, but the plants languished and many didn't yield any fruit at all. My land seems to want nothing but flowers. So I am trying my hand at breeding zinnias, cosmos and dahlias instead. Each bloom, as rich as a jewel, now attracts butterflies and hover flies and bees to feast where there was once nothing but a wasteland.
- 7 If I am creatively blocked, I walk barefoot on the earth, no matter the season, allowing stories to feed the roots of my entire body. If I have a plot hole I need to fix, I visit my lemon and lime basil, staining my fingers with their citrus scents. If I need to make my writing more lyrical, I sit with the dahlias, imagining that their vast genetic possibilities fill me when I speak with them.
- 8 When the summer gives way to cooler nights, my focus moves from leaves and blooms to the change in the angle of the sunlight. I think about how many times it has shifted over the entire lineage of humans, signaling to the trees to change from green to citrine, smoky topaz and shades of ruby. I reminisce about how I sat in that same autumnal light as a child, listening to the stories of my elders.
- 9 You, too, can listen to my mother's advice and see what the land has to say to you—be it a wide hillside of bluestem grass or a single window box filled with petunias. If the practice of listening to the earth and the beings that inhabit it feels inauthentic, consider that humans have long been in dialogue with the natural world. Indeed their survival depended on their connection with the land and discerning what it had to say. When they died, what was left of them in turn nurtured it, too.
- 10 It could be that newly sprouted blooms or subtle shifts in sunlight signaled the changing of seasons—giving them instructions. Perhaps your ancestors, as mine most likely did, believed that the world around them was populated with sentient beings that communicated with them. I like to think that the stories my grandmother still tells when I sit at her table have inklings of those the animals, trees and rivers shared with our ancestors. Paying attention to what the land has to say is how I honor this legacy.

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Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Reshma Saujani is an attorney, author, and activist who founded Girls Who Code, an organization that works to advance opportunities for girls and women to find careers in the technology sector. The following passage is excerpted from Saujani's contribution to *American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures*, a 2018 anthology of essays by prominent Americans with backgrounds in multiple cultures. The excerpt begins after Saujani discusses founding a multicultural student organization at her high school. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Saujani makes to convey her message about the nature of bravery.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Years later, when I ran for political office for the first time, I was exercising my bravery again. I had enjoyed several years of a lucrative career at a Wall Street law firm but longed to make my life more about helping to build communities and improving the future of this country. I wanted to push myself. And much like barging into Schaumburg High to start a diversity club, the idea of running for public office felt good—like I was flexing that bravery muscle again. So I bravely quit my job. I bravely ran for Congress. And I bravely lost by a landslide.

But I did it authentically, as myself, as *Reshma*. In the early stages of campaigning, I was told to change my name to Rita, given the advice that people are more likely to vote for you if they can pronounce your name. But my bravery had brought me this far. I wasn't going to stop now. I could never turn my back on Reshma to become a Key-Chain Rita.¹ And losing authentically allowed me to articulate something I was passionate about. I wanted to find a way to address the fact that American girls are often raised to value perfection over bravery. They want to be Sweet Valley Jessicas² instead of Schaumburg³ Reshmas. So I ran my campaign on a platform of bringing computer science into every classroom and making sure girls were given equal access to learning coding. I focused on this because the process of learning to

code—building something from the ground up, using trial and error, failing and starting over—allows you to see for yourself that perfection is pretty pointless. And bravery leads to wonderful things.

I should know. After the election loss, I had the gall to start a national nonprofit called Girls Who Code, and I don't even know how to code, myself.

But thanks to my childhood, growing up with two very brave immigrants as parents—who just like me were children of immigrants in Uganda—I now know it is more important than ever to be brave and proud of my identity, to own my role in changing the world, one election loss at a time.

Yes, I did run for office again a few years later. And yes, I lost again. But bravery is contagious.

On election day, I was running around in the rain shaking voters' hands up to the very last minute. I met a woman—I did not catch her name—who was rushing to the polls. As she passed by me, I smiled and said, "Who are you voting for today?"

She hesitated, flustered but kind. Embarrassed she couldn't pronounce it correctly, she fumbled out an *uhh* as she frantically pulled one of my fliers from her bag.

"This woman," she said as she pointed at my name on the piece of paper.

Even though she needed a cheat sheet to remember

5 who she was voting for, I couldn't help but swell with
pride that I had an Indian name. I couldn't help but
think of my parents. When they chose to name me
Reshma, did they dream of a world where it would be
unthinkable to go by Rita instead? I had spent years
7 assimilating as a child, and for the first time, I thought
I knew why my parents named me Reshma.

Maybe they didn't want me to blend in as much as
I thought. They blended in *so I wouldn't have to*. They
paid the ultimate price for my authenticity. They gave
5 up their community, their careers, their language, their
own *names*. These were the steep taxes they paid to
make a better life for me. Assimilating in the ways my
parents did can invite accusations. Changing your
name and hiding your accent could be seen as passive
7 or fearful gestures. But my parents' immigrant
experience reveals the great reserves of bravery and
pride they had in order to survive in a new country
with no familiar community of support. I think my

parents are the bravest people I know. They traded in
75 their names for the freedom and privilege I experience
every day. Because of them, I have the platform to be
brave. They built the stage I stood on at the PRISM⁴
assembly. They laid the groundwork for a little girl
named Reshma to grow up and become the first
80 Indian-American woman to run for Congress.

They changed their names so I wouldn't have to.

¹ Earlier in the essay, Saujani recalls a childhood incident
in which she was unable to find her name in a display of
key chains with names printed on them.

² Sweet Valley is a fictional suburban community near Los
Angeles that was the setting for a series of popular novels
for young adults.

³ the suburb of Chicago, Illinois, where Saujani grew up

⁴ acronym for Prejudice Reduction Interested Students
Movement, the multicultural student organization Saujani
founded

**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet
and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Simu Liu is an actor who has starred in television shows and movies, including *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. His 2022 memoir, *We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story*, describes his experiences as a Chinese immigrant in Canada. Liu's parents emigrated to Canada from China when Liu was a baby, leaving him with his grandparents. In the following excerpt from Liu's memoir, the family is getting the four-year-old Liu ready to reunite with his father and travel to Canada himself. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Liu makes to convey his message about the experience of preparing to emigrate from China.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

In the summer of 1993 I noticed that my English flash card lessons were starting to pick up, along with talk that my departure date to Canada was drawing even nearer.

I didn't like that one bit.

My whole family—my yéye, nǎinai, gūgu, gūfū,¹ even my cousin JingJing—spoke of this “Canada” as if it were some sort of idyllic paradise, a place of abundant snacks and endless affection.

“You can eat whatever you want,” Nǎinai would say, as if I didn't already have pretty regular access to all of my favorites on Héxínglǜ.²

“You will finally reunite with your parents,” my gūgu added reassuringly, as if I didn't already have five amazing people around me who loved me.

Looking back, it felt kind of cult-y, like gospel from the Church of Canadology that I was supposed to just accept. I played along, even though I was still rough on the exact terms of this proposition. Sure, I welcomed the thought of meeting more members of my family . . . but I had no idea that said new family members would come at the cost of everyone that I knew and loved.

So, with about as much agency as any four-year-old possessed, I kept on, ever the obedient child, dutifully memorizing my English flash cards. 苹果 (píngguo)—Apple. 猫 (māo)—Cat. 香蕉

(xiāngjiāo)—Banana. 爸爸妈妈 (bàbāmāma)—Parents, whom I would meet in the winter.

30 An air of excitement permeated our household in the days leading up to my father's arrival in late December. Word had come to us that Bàba³ would fly over to pick me up and escort me back to Canada, while Māma would meet us at the airport once we
35 landed in Toronto. If my grandparents were dreading letting me go (they were), they went to great lengths not to show it. We made a big WELCOME BACK sign in giant letters and hung it on our door. I wore my nicest clothes on the day, an outfit of absolute fire
40 consisting of a collared rugby shirt with blue and purple stripes, a pair of brown overalls with yellow polka dots and a vest that looked like a burlap sack. That's right, I was pattern clashing way before it was cool.

45 My gūgu and gūfū came over and we prepared a feast that filled our little round table: white mushrooms with sliced pork, large tail-on shrimp, bean curd, soy-sauce ribs and Russian-style red sausage—my father's favorite, apparently.

50 The food is starting to get cold when we hear a little knock on our door. I perk up anxiously as my yéye answers, opening the door to reveal a scrawny, square-faced man with bowl-cut hair wearing a big cozy sweater along with the bleary gaze of exhaustion

5 that comes after an eighteen-hour train ride from Beijing. This man who resembles an Asian Eric Forman from *That '70s Show* is my bàba, the man who I had waited my entire four-and-a-half-year life to reunite with.

7 This is the man who is going to bring me to the promised land of Canada.

“Máomao!”⁴ It’s me!”

I freeze.

I had imagined this moment in my head many

5 times, as I’m sure my father had. I wanted to run to him, embracing him enthusiastically and without any reservations, as any child would run to their own father—but I just . . . *can’t*. Everything about this man is foreign to me, from his voice to his smell. I had

7 only seen his face in photographs, only heard recordings of his disembodied voice. He feels almost like a celebrity, someone I recognize from somewhere, but who is himself unknown and unknowable.

5 I scurry to my nǎinai’s side nervously. I’m sure my

father was a little disappointed, but he respected my space, taking only a small step toward me.

“Do you know who I am?”

I ponder this for a moment.

80 “You . . . you are Zhenning Liu.”⁵

Everyone around me bursts out laughing. The ice is broken, and I laugh along, even though I don’t get the joke. “Zhenning Liu” is exactly who this man is to me; not “Dad,” not “Father,” not “Bàba” . . . but a

85 stranger, an acquaintance at best.

Slowly, over the next few days, it dawns on me that this stranger is going to take me away from my family, my home and everything that I have ever known.

¹ grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle

² Hexing Street

³ Father

⁴ Chinese nickname for a small child

⁵ the father’s full name

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Question 2**Suggested time—40 minutes**

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Michelle Obama was the First Lady of the United States during the presidential administration of her husband, Barack Obama (2009–2017). During that administration, she led programs including the Reach Higher Initiative, which encourages students to continue their education after high school. One way it does so is by supporting high school counselors' efforts to get students into college. On January 6, 2017, Obama gave her final speech as First Lady at an event honoring outstanding school counselors. The following passage is an excerpt from that speech. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Obama makes to convey her message about her expectations and hope for young people in the United States.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

[A]s I end my time in the White House, I can think of no better message to send our young people in my last official remarks as First Lady. So, for all the young people in this room and those who are watching, know that this country belongs to you—to all of you, from every background and walk of life. If you or your parents are immigrants, know that you are part of a proud American tradition—the infusion of new cultures, talents and ideas, generation after generation, that has made us the greatest country on earth.

If your family doesn't have much money, I want you to remember that in this country, plenty of folks, including me and my husband—we started out with very little. But with a lot of hard work and a good education, anything is possible—even becoming President. That's what the American Dream is all about.

If you are a person of faith, know that religious diversity is a great American tradition, too. In fact, that's why people first came to this country—to worship freely. And whether you are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh—these religions are teaching our young people about justice, and compassion, and honesty. So I want our young people to continue to learn and practice those values with pride. You see, our glorious diversity—our diversities

of faiths and colors and creeds—that is not a threat to who we are, it makes us who we are. So the young people here and the young people out there: Do not ever let anyone make you feel like you don't matter, or like you don't have a place in our American story—because you do. And you have a right to be exactly who you are.

But I also want to be very clear: This right isn't just handed to you. No, this right has to be earned every single day. You cannot take your freedoms for granted. Just like generations who have come before you, you have to do your part to preserve and protect those freedoms. And that starts right now, when you're young.

Right now, you need to be preparing yourself to add your voice to our national conversation. You need to prepare yourself to be informed and engaged as a citizen, to serve and to lead, to stand up for our proud American values and to honor them in your daily lives. And that means getting the best education possible so you can think critically, so you can express yourself clearly, so you can get a good job and support yourself and your family, so you can be a positive force in your communities.

And when you encounter obstacles—because I guarantee you, you will, and many of you already have—when you are struggling and you start thinking

about giving up, I want you to remember something that my husband and I have talked about since we first started this journey nearly a decade ago, something that has carried us through every moment in this White House and every moment of our lives, and that is the power of hope—the belief that something better is always possible if you’re willing to work for it and fight for it.

It is our fundamental belief in the power of hope that has allowed us to rise above the voices of doubt and division, of anger and fear that we have faced in our own lives and in the life of this country. Our hope that if we work hard enough and believe in ourselves, then we can be whatever we dream, regardless of the limitations that others may place on us. The hope that when people see us for who we truly are, maybe, just maybe they, too, will be inspired to rise to their best possible selves.

That is the hope of students like Kyra¹ who fight to

discover their gifts and share them with the world. It’s the hope of school counselors like Terri² and all these folks up here who guide those students every step of the way, refusing to give up on even a single young person. Shoot, it’s the hope of my—folks like my dad who got up every day to do his job at the city water plant; the hope that one day, his kids would go to college and have opportunities he never dreamed of.

That’s the kind of hope that every single one of us—politicians, parents, preachers—all of us need to be providing for our young people. Because that is what moves this country forward every single day—our hope for the future and the hard work that hope inspires.

¹ a student who worked with school counselor Terri Tchorzynski

² Terri Tchorzynski, the 2017 National School Counselor of the Year and honoree of the event

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Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

On May 21, 2016, the poet Rita Dove delivered a commencement address to graduating students at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, where she was a professor of English at the time. Dove received a Pulitzer Prize for her poetry and served as the United States poet laureate from 1993 to 1995. She also writes in a variety of genres including fiction and drama. The following is an excerpt from her speech. Read the passage carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Dove makes to convey her message about what she wishes for her audience of graduating students.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer’s rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

I am extremely delighted to be here today, at the very institution where I have been teaching for the past twenty-seven years.

Although I have given commencement speeches before, this one is different; this is personal.

The job of a commencement speaker—I googled it, so it must be true!—is to dispense “life advice.” That seems the very opposite of Percy Bysshe Shelley’s¹ definition of the poet as “a nightingale who sits in darkness and sings to cheer its own solitude with sweet sounds.” So I will not give you advice. The last thing you want to hear is advice—because in order to be effective, advice must be specific—and that, obviously, is impossible in this setting.

So instead of advice, I will give you wishes. Just think of me as a contrary fairy godmother or a wily genie.

I wish you Hunger.

Of course, I don’t mean physiological want, but a continued spiritual and intellectual appetite, a hunger to know more, do more, feel more. When I told my graduate poetry writing class that I was giving this speech, I asked them what they wished they had heard at their baccalaureate exercises, and one young woman responded with a list of, as she put it, “some things . . . I wish I could have heard, if I’d had sense enough to listen.”

1. Life is short.

2. Don’t put yourself in a box.

30 3. There’s a reason certain people, places, books, ideas, etc. make our ears stand up; always follow what attracts you.

And number 4, which to me is the kicker:

4. Passions are hard to come by.

35 When you entered this university, you wanted to eat the world, and all everyone else wanted you to do was to get good grades. And though your dreams may have been more nebulous² than they are now, they were no less intense. So keep that hunger; nurse
40 it. Stay curious, want it all while it lasts.

I wish you Hard Work.

By that I don’t mean back-breaking labor, not the drudgery of the treadmill, but an appreciation for the work that comes before the big show—getting ready,
45 honing your tools. Observation, research, practice—the actress Lupita Nyong’o gives herself homework whenever she has an audition. The classical flautist James Galway says: “You can sight-read better if you know your scales and
50 arpeggios.” When my father sat me down for the “You’re-going-out-into-the-world” talk, his message was this: Always be 150% prepared! At 150% you’ll be ready for anything—even if you’re not chosen for a job or position although you’re the better qualified
55 candidate. As the first African-American research chemist to break the color barrier in the tire and

rubber industry, my father knew how it felt to be passed over. What he was trying to tell me was: The last person to hold you accountable is you yourself. In most cases you won't be asked for more than 75%; in fact, depending on your race and gender, you might not be expected to give more than 50% of your capacity. But only you will know if you've done your best, so focus on that rather than what others think your best is—because if you allow others to tell you your worth, you will have given up on yourself.

For me, a shy kid who trembled giving class presentations in high school, the 150% I had not ever expected to need came in handy when I received the phone call that I had been awarded the Pulitzer Prize and would have to hold my first press conference. Six years later, when I was named Poet Laureate of the United States, that 150% emboldened me to write a letter on this University's letterhead to then President-elect Clinton, suggesting that the White House spotlight the arts during Arts and Humanities month; and in October of that year, 1993, as my husband and I rushed to Pennsylvania Avenue right

after my inaugural poetry reading at the Library of Congress to join the White House Celebration and State Dinner in honor of the Arts and Humanities, I used every bit of that 150%!

I wish you Uncertainty.

There's only so much knowledge that can be taught; hard facts are just that—solid, dense entities, the stones in a swiftly flowing stream of possibilities. You cannot wait for revelation to come down upon you in a cloud of gossamer and angelic sighs; more often than not you have to seek it out. Sometimes you don't know where you're going, but the only way you'll find out is if you get going. That doesn't mean that you rush off willy-nilly screaming, "I'm going to conquer this world"—but you do need to be bold enough to step outside of your comfort zone, even if it's scary Out There.

¹ Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822) was one of the major English Romantic poets.

² unclear, vague, or ill-defined

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

5.6 Using words and syntax for tone and style

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks**KEY WORDS** tone 语气 • style 文体 • parallel structure 平行结构 • coherence 连贯

Objective

Build the skills to control **tone** 语气 and **style** 文体 in your own writing.

You must be able to:

- choose diction that matches the audience and purpose
- vary sentence length deliberately
- use parallelism where items really are equivalent
- avoid a tone that undercuts your own argument

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Diction for a reader

A committee expects restraint; a rally expects heat. The same claim will fail in either register if it wears the other's clothes.

■ Deliberate variation

Vary length for emphasis, not for its own sake. Two long sentences and then a short one puts weight where you want it; unvaried length puts weight nowhere.

■ Parallelism used honestly

Parallel structure asserts equivalence. Using it for three items of unequal weight tells the reader something false about your own argument.

■ Tone that undercuts

Sarcasm about opponents tells a neutral reader you are not interested in persuading them. Overstatement invites a search for the exception. Both cost more than they gain.

2 Practice

2.1 State how the expected register differs between a committee and a rally. [2]

2.2 Explain what parallelism asserts and when it is dishonest. [2]

2.3 A student’s essay describes opponents as “obviously ridiculous”.

(a) State the cost. [1]

(b) Suggest a replacement. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Varying sentence length without purpose [1]

- **A** creates emphasis everywhere
- **B** creates emphasis nowhere
- **C** improves coherence
- **D** shortens the essay

3.2 Overstatement in an argument tends to [1]

- **A** strengthen the claim
- **B** invite a search for the exception
- **C** improve tone
- **D** signal concession

3.3 Rewrite this sentence for a formal committee: “Anyone can see this plan is a total disaster and always has been.” [4]

Solutions

2.1 a committee expects restraint and qualification; a rally expects heat and directness.

2.2 parallelism asserts that the items are equivalent; it is dishonest when the items are of unequal weight.

2.3 (a) it tells a neutral reader the writer is not trying to persuade them. (b) a specific criticism of the plan rather than of the people, e.g. “the plan assumes a level of staffing that has never existed”.

3.1 B. emphasis depends on contrast, so random variation flattens it.

3.2 B. an overstated claim is easy to refute with one counter-case.

3.3 removes the evaluative overstatement; replaces “anyone can see” with an argued basis; names a specific defect; register suits a committee.