

2016 Question 1 Language Student Samples

Samples are typed exactly as students wrote them.

*For the purposes of scoring, synthesis means using sources to develop a position and citing them accurately.

Sample L (1)

Monolingual English speakers are really not at a disadvantage in the United States because we are close to the border. Monolingual people have the advantage of having a better paid job due to knowing another language.

Source A states “He recognized the important work that language instructors undertake . . .” Also “. . .strong support for increased foreign language.” This shows how the author of Source A understands that monolingual plays a great role in the United States. Source C states “. . . employers who have learned enough Spanish . . . to make their job easier . . .” This illustrates how monolingual people have better opportunities.

I personally believe that a monolingual person has greater advantages.

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- Not a blank because _____
- Not a 0 because _____

<p>1 Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation, weak in their control of writing, or do not allude to or cite even one source. (approx. 120 words)</p>

Sample Q (2)

Ever since man has stepped foot on the land we call the United States, English has been it’s dominant language. English has been a dominant language in international finance, science, and politics.

English has been an important part of international finance. For example, whenever trade⁵ needs to happen between other countries, there is a need for some kind of translation. Not every country will speak the same language. So the United States will need some bilingual speakers who can translate. For when trading or any other deals between two countries, there will have to bring in someone who knows both language. As in (Source B), it says “This is the language of science commerce, global politics, aviation, popular music, and, above all, the internet.” (Source B) English is the language¹⁰ used everywhere and it is probably the easiest to learn.

English is also an important part of politics now-a-days. For example, the presidents have to be a citizen of America for 7 years and speak fluent English. A country can’t have a president that doesn’t speak the language that the majority of population speaks. Also the pope, for example, Pope Francis, has learned all kinds of languages. When he goes to speak to all these countries, he has to speak their¹⁵ language. English has been an important part of history of politics.

English is also an important part of science. All the scientists have to speak the same language in order to come up with new theories. As it says in (Source C) people in hospitals have to learn some sort of language to be able to understand the patients and doctors. English is an important part of America and other countries.

²⁰English is a common language for people all over the world to understand. Basically if you know English, you will more likely to succeed especially in America. Other countries and other people will also benefit from learning English because it is such a common language that most people know. Everyone will benefit from learning English.

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2 Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in arguing a position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. The student may misread the sources, fail to develop a position, or substitute a simpler task by merely summarizing or categorizing the sources or by merely responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of control. (approx. 374 words)

Sample G (3)

In today's time, yes, monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage. It seems as though if you do not know at least some words of Spanish, etc., then you cannot understand some people. As more and more immigrants come to the United States, the more the monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage. Reasons they are at a disadvantage are, one, "language learning is not just technical ⁵mastery of grammar but rather, in his words . . ." (Source A), two "employers who have to learn enough Spanish to speak to their employees . . ." (Source C), three, "225, 505, 953 total people spoke only English at home" (Source E) Ultimately, yes, if you are a monolingual English speaker, you are at a disadvantage.

First, "language learning is not just technical mastery of grammar but rather, in his words, a ¹⁰'gateway' to a thorough understanding of other societies . . ." (Berman, Source A) This helps support the fact that a monolingual English speaker is at a disadvantage because it shows that you have to know at least some of another language in order to understand more and more of our society. Therefore, if you are a monolingual English speaker you are at a disadvantage.

Second, "employers who have to learn enough Spanish to speak to their employees . . ." (Source ¹⁵C), is another reason why monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage. This quote supports this statement because it shows that if an employer does not know at least some Spanish, they will not be able to communicate with their employees. Some of the workers include "workers in hospitals, clinics, courts, and retail stores; soldiers back from Iraq or Afghanistan, . . ." (Source C, Erard) All in all, yes, monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage.

²⁰Third, "225, 505, 953 total people spoke only English at home." (Source E) This helps support the claim that monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage because it shows just how many do not know any other language. You may be thinking, "Well, that would support the fact that they do not have a disadvantage." However, a total number of "34, 344, 077" people "spoke Spanish at home" (Source E). That's a significant number of people; therefore, yes, speakers that are monolingual are at a ²⁵disadvantage.

In conclusion, in today's time, as more and more immigrants come to the United States of America, the more monolingual English speakers will be at a disadvantage. Three reasons include "language learning is not just technical mastery of a grammar but rather, a 'gateway' to a thorough

understanding of other societies . . .”(Source A), “employers who have to learn enough Spanish to speak³⁰to their employees” (Source C), and “225, 505, 953 total people spoke only English at home.” (Source E). Ultimately, monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage.

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3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4, but demonstrate less success in arguing position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They are less perceptive in their understanding of the sources, or their explanation or examples may be particularly limited or simplistic. The essays may show less maturity in the control of writing. (approx. 527 words)

Sample U (4)

In an American contemporary society, learning a multitude of languages is regarded as insignificant to our lives and success as human beings. English has become the norm and ^{there rests} an unspoken truth that in order to become successful, one has to be able to speak and write in English. It is Learning English ^{is} mandatory while, on the other end of the spectrum, learning other languages are ⁵optional. However, it is without a doubt that people must be at least bi-lan bilingual to unlock their full capabilities. Learning a multitude of languages leads to the overall success of a nation in terms of their foreign affairs ^{relations} and also, ^{the} intellectual self-improvements of an individual. improve our relationship

Making the United States a more multilingual society will bring in a apprecin countless benefits. ¹⁰It will ^{transform our interactions with one another}, making us more effective in global affairs “and will be beneficial for jobs that involve diplomatic, military, professional, and commercial affairs (Source D). Likewise, the implimentation of a multilingual ^{American} society will improve our relations with foreign customers and business. since it will make us more understanding of each other. and It will prevent Euro-competitors from chatting away to foreign, resulting in them stealing all of our foreign business partners as a result ¹⁵(Source B).

Learning other languages in addition to English will, without a doubt, lead to intellectual self-improvements for each and every-one of us. Those who learn more languages “consistently display enhanced cognitive abilities relative to their monolingual peers.” (Source D). ~~The~~ Research shows that they can think better because their brain becomes more flexible ~~and~~ and ~~incite~~ discover new patterns, ²⁰making it “create and maintain more circuits” (Source D). Thus, through language, we become better thinkers and more versitle in ~~their~~ our daily lives. ~~Acquiring a greater~~ ^{The Acquisition} of more languages ~~improves~~ allows us to better understand our foreign counterparts. It creates a “gateway” to a thorough understanding of other societies (Source A). For instance, one is able to better navigate through the Central Asian republics with an understanding of Russien than hes or she is with an understanding of ²⁵English. This circumstance is also applicable with places such as Africa, Mali, Angola, or Chad, where English is regarded as a rarity (Source F).

Although, English is increasingly becoming globalized and is seen as a dominant language in internation finance, science, and politics, learning more languages does provide more benefits. It allows nations and individuals to improvement as a whole and develop a better relationship with other ³⁰prominent nations where English is not common. The acquisition of more language does no harm to an individual, it only benefits ~~them~~ him or her.

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4 Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** argue a position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They develop their argument by synthesizing at least 2 sources, but the evidence or explanations may be inappropriate, insufficient, or unconvincing. The sources may dominate the student’s attempts at development, the link between the argument and the sources may be weak, or the student may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify the sources. (approx. 434)

Sample D (5)

It doesn’t hurt to learn a new language. With the thousands and thousands of languages circulating around the world, it is important to know more than just English. Learning a new language can help you communicate with foreigners when traveling, make you a better thinker, and also assist you in your profession.

⁵With the increase of more and more languages, it is important to pick some up. When travelling, it is hard to navigate through smaller communities due to their possible lack of knowing English. Once outside Tokyo, try navigating Japan with only English. In the central Asian republics, Russian will get you a lot farther just as French will in most of West Africa (Source F) This is very important just because knowing the language even it is just a little can go a long way. The use of ¹⁰another language is very important especially in foreign affairs. “We need more Arabic to do better in Fallujah, i.e., so we could have been more effective in the Iraq War.” (Source A) With our growing need to communicate with others, learning a foreign language can dramatically assist in everyday life.

Catherine Purter (a former president of the Modern Language Association) “Students who learn foreign-language at an early age consistently display enhanced cognitive abilities relative to their ¹⁵monolingual peers.” She says that the research shows that these kids can think better (Source D) Purter explains how the language learning process on the brain makes the brain more flexible and incite it to discover new patterns. She explains how using a foreign language stimulates the brain and that it feels like she has had a mental jog on the treadmill. What using a foreign language does in energizes and stimulates the brain in order to create a sense of an ability to conquer anything in your way (D). The ²⁰more we neglect foreign language, the more we hurt ourselves and our country.

Learning a foreign language can most definitely help in your profession whether it is to speak with (cannot read) or coworkers. “. . . employers who have learned enough Spanish to speak to their employees, (cannot read) in hospitals, clinics, Courts and retails stores (cannot read) have (cannot read) on parts of another language to make their jobs easier; soldiers back from Iraq of Afghanistan with some ²⁵Arabic, Pas (cannot read) or Darl . . .” (Source C) Workers who are monolingual in these situations are all disadvantaged because they do not possess the power to communicate with the people around them which can lead to many disasters especially involving miscommunications. It’s going to be hard for a monolingual American doctor to treat villagers in Mali, Angola, or Chad because of their inability to communicate although they had the right intentions. (Source F) Learning a language or even a part of ³⁰the language can easily fix that problem.

In conclusion, the facts show the benefits that learning another language provides and all of the disadvantages monolingual Americans encounter. So why not just learn a bit of another language?

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5 Essays earning a score of 5 argue a position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They develop their argument by synthesizing at least 3 sources, but how they use and explain sources may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writer's argument is generally clear, and the sources generally develop the writer's position, but the links between the sources and the argument may be strained. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas. (approx. 512 words)

Sample R (6)

Today English is becoming an ever-growing language. Though the United States is thought to be a "melting pot" because of its ethnic diversity, many will come to find that English is the primary language spoken in the country. This is not only true in the U.S. for English is continuing to expand and globalize. However, there is a clear trade off for monolingual English speakers. Those who are solely dependent on speaking English are at a disadvantage – they are cognitively less developed than their language rich counterparts and are more inept in the international business world. Studies show monolingual English speakers are slowly but surely falling behind as thinkers. ". . . the language learning process makes . . . the brain more flexible and incite it to discover new patterns – and thus to create and maintain more circuits" (Source D). This demonstrates that the brains of monolingual speakers adapts and creates stronger neural networks that can aid in future problem solving. Obviously, this is a benefit to for people of any age. The ability to speak multiple languages challenges the brain and prepares it for difficult tasks. Just like any other part in our body, we must exercise it to become better and stronger. In a way, language is a means of doing just this. Additionally, learning a language helps one have more than just a shallow understanding of things but rather a greater grasp of comprehension. "With the core language skills . . . come higher-order capacities: to interpret and understand" (Source A).

Being a multilingual speaker has practical application in regards to business. ". . . language learning is not just technical mastery of grammar but rather . . . a "gateway" to a thorough understanding of other societies" (Source A). If we can get a better understanding of our business partners, the best way to do so would be through language. Language is the path to acknowledging the culture and tradition that precedes. Who would want to make a deal with someone who has no respect for another's customs? In this case ignorance is not bliss. Some even go so far as to say that pure English speakers will find themselves in isolation as European competitors are cozying up with foreign customers (Source B). Common language allows people to feel more comfortable with one another. Communication is more direct and fluid as opposed to if there were a translator. Also, the need for multilingual speakers is becoming increasing. Monolingual English speakers will also find themselves at a disadvantage in finding jobs since the market is demanding an increasing amount of multilingual speakers (Source F).

Some may argue that monolingual English speakers should not feel the need to learn a language "unless you've got a specific professional use for it" (Source B) and because many foreigners are learning English, reducing the effort on the part of English-only speakers. This is an interesting point to consider. However, these people overstate the prominence of the English language around the world. Often, the United States Census Bureau asks people if they speak another language besides English at home. This appears to be a reasonable question to ask but it does not consider those who learn a language outside of home (ex.: college) but do not speak at home (Source C). This greatly undermines those who speak multiple languages beyond their household and in turn, diminishes the true number of multilingual speakers. This can be seen in a 2007 American community survey those who spoke only English at home

outnumbered those who spoke more than just English at home by approximately 170,000 (Source E). Imagine how much larger this number would be if the question were worded differently? Overall, idea of English taking over the world is greatly overstated. In fact, “the number of native Spanish speakers in ⁴⁰the United States has doubled since 1990 . . .” (Source F).

Furthermore, speaking multiple languages has its perks and leaves monolingual English speakers in the dust. Multilingual speakers are abler to formulate more intimate bonds with their business partners, securing their business transactions. Also, multilingual speakers are more keen because their brains are constantly being challenged and exercised through practice of various languages. Perhaps ⁴⁵there is a reason why we are so infatuated by those ~~with foreign accents~~ who can speak French, Italian, Chinese, and etc. There is a beauty in ^{all} languages that cannot be replicated through only one. Language binds us to history, culture, and most importantly one another. We cannot live as humans without interpersonal relations. Language is what makes such relationships possible. It is necessary in business, education, and love.

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6 Essays earning a score of **6 adequately** argue a position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They develop their argument by adequately synthesizing at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient. The language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear. (approx. word count: 735)

Sample C (7)

In today’s society, language, like many other areas of education, sees a constant clash between those who see it as essential and those who do not. This is always the argument, a black-and-white debate constructed as a matter of necessity due to budget restrictions. Anything not deemed utterly essential in education is liable to face cutbacks, leaving proponents of language education in the ⁵awkward position of having to defend language not by its merit but by its indispensibility. Should they concede that language is beneficial but ~~not~~ possible to do without, their programs will be cut, reducing the chances students have to learn other languages. This is unfortunate, as a much more realistic and defensible position is that, like in other academic areas, a basic introduction to ~~other~~ language instruction is important, but, barring circumstances not applicable to the majority to the population, ¹⁰monolingual speakers are at no real disadvantage today.

Proponents of language education, seeking to argue its importance, tend to make one of two arguments: that language develops critical thinking skills, and that it is useful for a wide variety of jobs. However, neither of these ~~arguments~~ points truly suggests that advanced education in another language is needed for everyday life, generally speaking. In Source D, Oaks details research that found children ¹⁵who learn another language can “think better” than those who do not. However, neither this nor Oaks’ argument that speaking other languages as an adult allows one to take “a mental jog on a treadmill” suggests that advanced learning of languages is essential. While the cognitive benefits of language learning at a young age can be easily gained ~~by~~ through basic language education, Oaks’ experiences with the use of multiple languages sounds no more essential to the everyday language ²⁰speaker than an extensive understanding of romantic poetry. While both are enriching, a basic understanding will more than suffice for most.

The second argument commonly made for language programs is that other languages are useful for a variety of jobs. While this addresses the need for advanced language education, it fails to

convincingly appeal to the majority of English speakers because it has no bearing on their lives. For ²⁵instance, Source F rattles off a list of jobs impossible to perform without learning another language, these jobs are specific instances not applicable to most people.

None of this is to say that it is not important to have access to advanced language education, or to require basic language courses at a young age. But learning other languages is also by no means a necessary skill. There are many paths a monolingual English speaker can take, and their ignorance of ³⁰other languages will leave them at no more of a disadvantage than ignorance of any other skill not relevant to them. To quote Source B, “there’s absolutely no need to learn any one particular language unless you’ve got a specific professional use for it.”

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<p>7 Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style. (approx. 608 words)</p>

Sample E (8)

With the existence of over six thousand languages in the world today, does it make sense to ignore all but one? The study of foreign languages in the world and in America today is on the decline, as English rises as one of the most commonly-spoken languages. As monolingualism slowly develops in English-speaking countries, the question of this monolingualism and its pros and cons is met. Though it ⁵may be true that many people in English-speaking countries are monolingual, these people have ignored the many benefits of learning foreign language. Monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today because the majority of the world does not speak English, and because learning foreign language has benefits such as learning about culture and prompting better mental wellbeing.

The majority of people in the world do not speak English, and/or are not monolingual English ¹⁰speakers. It is unclear whether or not this may be the case in America, which is considered a mainly-monolingual English-speaking country. The results of the 2007 census reveal that 55 million people speak a language other than English at home (Source E). Compared to the 125 million who speak only English at home, this appears to be an insignificant number, but Michael Erard (Source C) speculates what the cause of this may be. The census poses the question, “Does the person speak a language other ¹⁵than English at home” This question completely ignores the possibility of proficiency in languages outside of the home setting. In fact, Erard writes that when a similar survey was conducted in Europe, but rephrased (“Can you have a conversation in a language besides your mother tongue?) a majority of respondents were revealed to be multilingual. Though some may argue that there is no need to learn a foreign language because everyone in English-speaking countries is monolingual, this is certainly not the ²⁰case. Those who are monolingual would therefore be put at a disadvantage, considering the large number of people in America and other English-speaking countries, since they lack foreign-language abilities when compared to the rest of the population.

Monolingual speakers are at a disadvantage because of the many benefits which accompany learning foreign languages, such as learning the culture of other countries. Russell Berman (Source A) ²⁵criticizes Haass’ argument that foreign language should be taught and mastered for the sake of national security and global economy. As he criticizes Haass’ argument, Berman points out the narrower, limited approach of Haass’ thinking to foreign languages. The simplicity of this approach completely ignores the window of opportunities to learning which follow the study of foreign language. Ranging from the origins of words, to words which are unique to specific languages, foreign language ³⁰carries with it a wealth of information that should not be ignored. To take away foreign language is to take with it the customs, traditions, and importance of other cultures. Monolingual ^{English speakers} would be

^{put at} a disadvantage due to the lack of knowledge of other cultures they have. The world is a place of many cultures to enjoy; to not take advantage of this fountain of diversity is a waste.

Another disadvantage for monolingual English speakers is that learning foreign languages comes ³⁵with the benefit of better mental wellbeing. Russell Berman (Source A) briefly discusses the impact of learning foreign language on the mind and on mental capacity: “We become better learners.” Education is about expanding one’s boundaries, not just on knowledge, but also on the ability to apply this knowledge. Ursula Oaks expand on this idea in Source D, ⁱⁿ which she uses hypothetical situations that demonstrate the positive effect of using foreign languages: “. . . afterward I feel like I’ve had a mental ⁴⁰jog on the treadmill: strangely energized, brain-stretched, more ready for any challenge . . .” Oaks testifies through personal experience that learning foreign language and using it is a mental challenge which enhances one’s mental capabilities. As monolingual English speakers drone in the same monotonous language all day, multilingual speakers are ready for the next mental obstacle to come.

It is evident that monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage due to their lack of ⁴⁵diversity, their limited mental capability compared to multilingual speakers, and their lack of ability to speak foreign languages, when compared to other people in English-speaking countries and in the entire world. Languages exist for a reason, and that is to be spoken, not forgotten or replaced.

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8 Essays earning a score of **8 effectively** argue a position on whether monolingual English speakers are at a disadvantage today. They develop their argument by effectively synthesizing* at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing. Their prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless. (approx. 705 words)

Sample O (9)

It is a well-known idea that the global industries dominating the world’s international affairs are becoming increasingly infiltrated by the English language. Whether in finance, science, or politics, English is now used more often than not. However, this has led to a sharp decline in learning foreign languages in English speaking countries. This monolingual trend that is plaguing English speaking ⁵countries presents a clear disadvantage for those who follow it. Not only do other languages open us up to new cultures, they are ^{also} proven to widen our intellectual horizons and make us more successful both politically and economically in terms of global affairs.

Language is too often thought of as a mere practicality when it, in fact, provides a “gateway” into understanding other cultures. The United States itself is home to a highly multilingual society, with ¹⁰Spanish speakers doubling since 1990. In smaller sects, almost six thousand languages are being spoken in smaller communities (Source F). This is only in one part of the world though, and abroad even more dialects are being created every day. With this variety of language comes a variety of distinguishable cultures. As Richard Haass has explained, there is a “crucial connection between language and culture” (Source A). Language is more than just a “technical mastery of grammar” – it is a ¹⁵form of expression which we can use as a “gateway” to fully understanding and appreciating other cultures.

Language is expression and being a monolingual speaker myself in a place as diverse as New York City, I can say that these cultural boundaries are always present.

Beyond the more social ^{and cultural} aspects of being bilingual, being so is also proven to broaden our intellectual capabilities. According to Catherine Porter, a former president of the Modern Language ²⁰Association, students who master ~~other~~ multiple languages at a young age “consistently display enhanced cognitive abilities relative to their monolingual peers” as their brains become more adept to learning new patterns (Source D). Even more evidence of this comes in the fact that students who excel in a second language exhibit a similar trend in their first language (Source A). The fact that being bilingual gives us a chance to broaden our intelligence and understand things at a greater level is not ²⁵just an appealing quality, it’s an offer that is impossible to refuse. Education itself, in its purest form, is about thinking, reflecting and understanding, not ^{about} merely regurgitating facts. If being a bilingual speaker gives us the ability to think more practically and deeply, it is obvious that our monolingual counterparts are at a disadvantage in their ability to comprehend things in the same way.

Being monolingual is an obvious disadvantage if we consider the ideas of globalization of the ³⁰worlds political and economic affairs. Though English is admittedly a huge presence in the world’s affairs, it falls short in several places. As I mentioned previously, the United States has become an increasingly monolingual society. According to Paul Cohen, in fact, jobs in national offices may even be marked by ^{the} Spanish language in years to come. Cohen also points out that the pockets of English-speaking places are only portions of larger, not English-speaking areas, such as Tokyo to the rest of ³⁵Japan. English can theoretically be used, but knowing the country’s native tongue will get you much farther and open you up to cultural cues and other things monolinguality wouldn’t have at all (Source F). Even critics of bilinguality such as David Thomas concede on the idea that learning a country’s first language will help us do better in our business there, such as speaking Mandarin in a Chinese market (Source B). Overall, it’s clear that our involvement in the world and our move away from “dismal ⁴⁰isolation” is propagated by being bilingual. This capitalistic benefit is even more present now with increased globalization as a result of mass media and other methods, thus presenting monolingual English speakers with a significant disadvantage.

All in all, though the English language is granted to be increasingly spread worldwide, this is no excuse for being monolingual. Knowing more than one language makes us more culturally involved, ^{more} ⁴⁵intellectually capable and puts us at an advantage in the world’s political and economic affairs. It doesn’t just hurt the individual to be monolingual, it affects the world, as we rely on being linguistically homogeneous and continue to isolate those who speak other languages. As a result, it is important to devote more time, effort and money to foreign language programs and to leave behind our self-involved idea that English is the only necessary language. It is time for us to immerse ourselves in every part of ⁵⁰the world, not just the English-speaking parts, once again.

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<p>9 Essays scoring a 9 meet the criteria for a score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or impressive in their control of language. (approx. 900 words)</p>
