



English Placement Test Rubric.

To qualify for Honors, scores must be 8+. HSPT data and grades are also part of the decision making process.

10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	4 points	0-2 points
<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The requested number of details or examples are provided.</p> <p>The response clearly and effectively elaborates ideas, using precise language.</p> <p>There are no grammatical or spelling errors.</p>	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The requested number of examples are provided but they are not specific, OR the response is missing an example or detail.</p> <p>The response adequately elaborates ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language.</p> <p>There are minor grammatical and spelling errors.</p>	<p>The response provides a plausible discussion with evidence that often relies on paraphrase or general textual support that includes some analysis, implicit or explicit. Their analysis and discussion may be vague, formulaic, or minimally supported. The response demonstrates some control of language, but they may have several grammatical errors. These essays have difficulty presenting clear organization, or sustained development of analysis.</p>	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes uneven or limited use of sources, facts, and details.</p> <p>The response elaborates ideas unevenly, using simplistic language or vague assertions.</p> <p>There are several grammatical and spelling errors throughout.</p>	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details.</p> <p>The response and elaboration of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing.</p> <p>Spelling and grammatical errors make the response difficult to read or decipher.</p>	<p>Not Attempted</p> <p>Unintelligible</p> <p>Off topic</p> <p>Off purpose</p>



Sample Responses using the above Writing Rubric

Example Prompt #1: Which **three characters** most help Arnold to change his outlook on himself? How do these people help him?

10-point answer: The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The requested number of details or examples are provided.

The response clearly and effectively elaborates ideas, using precise language.

There are no grammatical or spelling errors.

Mr. P is one of the first characters in the novel who helps Arnold change his view of himself. When Arnold is frustrated that he has the same textbook as his mother, Mr. P acknowledges the injustices that have occurred on the reservation and encourages Arnold to get off the rez if he has hope. Through using Arnold's sister Mary as an example, Mr. P suggests that success can be found off of the rez but staying on the rez could be detrimental. A second character who helps Arnold is his sister Mary. At first it seems like she is not a good example for Arnold, and he is confused or surprised when she moves off the rez. As she writes him letters he begins to think she was brave for taking a chance. Even though she ends up dying in a fire, Arnold holds her as an example of a willingness to take risks. Surprisingly, Rowdy is the third character. It initially seems like he is trying to keep Arnold down or expect Arnold to stay on the rez. Rowdy even is cruel to him, ignores him, and is aggressive during their basketball games. By the end of the novel, though, Rowdy recognizes that Arnold is a free spirit who needs to travel, and by providing his friendship and accepting Arnold as he is, maybe Arnold feels more comfortable and doesn't have to hide himself.

8-point answer: The response provides adequate support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the use of sources, facts, and details.

*The requested number of examples are provided **but they are not specific, OR the response is missing an example or detail.***

*The response adequately elaborates ideas, employing a **mix of precise with more general language.***

*There are **minor grammatical and spelling errors.***

Mr. P is one of the first characters in the novel who helps Arnold change his view of himself. When Arnold is frustrated that he has the same textbook as his mother, Mr. P acknowledges the injustices that have occurred on the reservation and encourages Arnold to get off the rez if he has hope. Through using Arnold's sister Mary as an example, Mr. P suggests that success can be found off of the rez but staying on the rez could be detrimental. A second character who helps Arnold is his sister Mary. At first it seems like she is not a good example for Arnold, and he is confused or surprised when she moves off the rez. As she writes him letters he begins to think she was brave for taking a chance. Even though she ends up dying in a fire, Arnold holds her as an example of a willingness to take risks.

**Note: This is the same as the 10-point answer, word-for-word, except the third detailed example is missing.*



6-point answer: The response provides **uneven, cursory support/evidence** for the controlling idea or main idea that includes **uneven or limited use of sources, facts, and details.**

The response elaborates ideas unevenly, using **simplistic language or vague assertions.**

There are **several grammatical and spelling errors throughout.**

Mr. P helps Arnold because when Arnold is mad about the math book Mr. P calms him down even though Arnold hits him with the book. After this Arnold leaves and goes to a new school which helps him.

Mary leaves the rez and is a good example of pursuing goals and someday now Arnold might leave too.

Rodger helps because he bullies Arnold at first but then later becomes his friend and even lends him money and so Arnold knows people can change. After this Arnold might think he doesn't need to get caught up in the stereotypes of the rez and he can change too.

4-point answer: The response provides minimal support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes **little or no use of sources, facts, and details.**

The response and elaboration of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing.

Spelling and grammatical errors make the response difficult to read or decipher.

Mr. P, Rodger, and Mary all help Arnold change. At the beginning of the story Arnold is unsure about his identity and doesn't know if he should leave the rez or not. By the end of the story he is more confident and thinks he belongs at Rerdan the white school. He was brave to leave his rez and his friends and family and he was successful at the new school. Mr. P was one of his old teachers, Rodger was a student at Rerdan and Mary was his sister who died.



Example Prompt #2: How is Obierika a positive moral force, especially compared to Okonkwo, in all three sections of the novel? (Section I: Umuofia, before exile; Section II: Mbanta; Section III, Umuofia, post-exile)

10-point answer: The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The requested number of details or examples are provided.

The response clearly and effectively elaborates ideas, using precise language.

There are no grammatical or spelling errors.

In Part I, even though Obierika was not the one to tell Okonkwo to stay out of Ikemefuna's murder, Obierika offered insight afterwards. He shared with Okonkwo that he had something better to do besides killing the boy and then said that while he respects the authority of the Oracle, he didn't need to help it carry out the action. Okonkwo contrasted this when saying that if everyone were afraid of blood, nothing would be done. In Part II, Obierika visits Okonkwo twice while he is exiled in Mbanta. During his first visit, Obierika shared the story of Abame. While Okonkwo's reaction was that the men should have armed themselves after the arrival of the first white man, Obierika was more cautious, revealing that he is afraid and has heard stories of slavery that might be true. Once he returned to Umuofia, Okonkwo went to Obierika to receive an update on the village. Okonkwo was extremely critical, calling his people womanly and saying they have lost the desire and power to fight. Obierika's measured response was grounded in the tragedy at Abame, the conversion of some of the Umuofians, leaving fewer to fight the enemy, and increasing enemy numbers by adding Umuofians, and the cleverness of the white man, or white men, who have caused things to fall apart.

Reasons why you'd lose points:

--only including 2 of 3 answers

--including answers only from 2 sections of the novel, even if you have 3 examples total

--SPELLING INCORRECTLY. Make a list of names and places to use on the exam if you need to.

--Vague examples that Okonkwo prizes violence and Obierika is more peaceful. Ground examples in specific instances and/or conversations

--You can also contrast specific thoughts they have, even if they don't share those thoughts with each other



Example Prompt #3: Who are three positive influences on Reyna? How do they help her? (*The Distance Between Us*)

10-point answer: The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The requested number of details or examples are provided.

The response clearly and effectively elaborates ideas, using precise language.

There are no grammatical or spelling errors.

One positive influence on Reyna is her older sister Mago. Eventually she and Reyna grow apart, but for the beginning of the novel Mago is like a little mother to Reyna. Reyna even thinks of her as more of a mother figure than Mami at times. Mago protects Reyna, tells her stories, encourages her that memories are important and everything will be okay, especially when both parents are still in the US, and even throws her a quinceanera. A second positive influence was Papi. Even though he leaves for America at the beginning, divorces Mami for Mila, and then becomes an abusive alcoholic, he brought Reyna to America, where he emphasized the importance of education. He was not always outwardly proud of her and she spent a lot of time trying to impress him, but he told her to study hard for a good career. He was also protective in several moments, such as when they tried to cross the border and when there was gang gunfire outside their home in the US. The third person who helped Reyna was Diana. Diana was one of her teachers at the community college and even let Reyna live with her for a while when Reyna was arguing with Papi. Diana gave her space and time to write, introduced her to new foods, and introduced her to Latino writers that Reyna had never met before. Diana encouraged Reyna to apply to a four-year college and Reyna even gave a graduation speech about the influence Diana had on Reyna's writing and college career.

Reasons why you'd lose points:

--Only 2 examples out of these 3

--Vague examples, such as "Mago was a parent-like influence to Reyna and Reyna looked up to her. Diana was a positive role model and one of Reyna's teachers. Reyna's papi thought education was important."

--Spelling and grammar errors

If it helps, write out a character list (for all 3 books!) -- with the character's name spelled correctly and a very brief description. Have this on hand during the final exam.