



Computer-Based  
Sample Test  
Scoring Guide  
Grades 6-8 ELA  
Writing



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Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education*

## About the Sample Test Scoring Guide

The Arizona’s Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) Sample Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for AASA Sample Test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Item number
- Strand
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AASA Grades 6-8 ELA Writing.

## Grades 6-8 ELA Sample Test – Writing

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
1	Writing	Text Types and Purposes	6.W.1	4

### Passages:

- *Source 1: Hobbies are Healthy*
- *Source 2: Can a Hobby Be a Career?*
- *Source 3: Handcrafted Kites*
- *Source 4: Screen Printing: A Challenging Hobby*

### Hobbies

Many people choose to have a hobby to break up their daily routines. There are a great variety of hobbies to choose from.

Write a multi-paragraph argumentative essay in which you support the choice of either kite making or screen printing as a hobby. Include information about why your chosen hobby is enjoyable, healthy, and could possibly lead to a career. Use information from the sources in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can do the following actions:

- Read the sources.
- Plan your response.
- Write your response.
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include the following tasks:

- Include a claim.
- Address counterclaims.
- Use evidence from multiple sources.
- Avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay. Enter your response in the space provided.

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## Argumentative Rubric

### Purpose, Focus, and Organization

The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clear claim and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:

- Strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material
- Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas
- Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, including a satisfying introduction and conclusion
- Appropriate style and tone established and maintained

### Evidence and Elaboration

The response provides thorough, convincing, and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:

- Smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant evidence, including precise references to sources
- Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques to support the claim, demonstrating an understanding of the topic and text
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose
- Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility

### Conventions

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:

- Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors
- Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling

### References and Citations

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).

Scoring Rubric – Top Score Response
Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If students choose kite making, a complete response will provide support for the claim that kite making is a better choice for a hobby than screen printing. Details and evidence may include, but are not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence that kite making is healthy should be provided.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Once the time factor is overcome, it may be eye-opening to realize how hobbies can benefit mind, body, and heart.” (Source 1)</li> <li>• “Having a hobby, such as coin collecting or chess, exercises the brain and helps with learning and remembering.” (Source 1)</li> <li>• “Other hobbies, like painting or cooking, can produce a calming state of mind.” (Source 1)</li> <li>• “Physical activities get people out of their chairs, and they can strengthen cardiovascular and skeletal systems and even improve sleep.” (Source 1)</li> <li>• “While designing and making a kite stretches people’s creative skills, flying a kite gets people moving outdoors.” (Source 3)</li> <li>• “Also, kite flying usually requires large open areas like parks or fields, and studies have shown that being out in nature is good for mental health.” (Source 3)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Evidence that kite making can lead to a future career should be provided.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If your hobby is kite flying, you may gain an appreciation for aerospace science.” (Source 2)</li> <li>• “If you like building kites, you may consider being an aerospace engineer.” (Source 2)</li> <li>• “A kite enthusiast may also have a future as a flight technician, who supervises the maintenance and testing of aircraft.” (Source 2)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Evidence that making hand-crafted kites is a good hobby should be provided.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Making a kite gives people a creative outlet for self-expression.” (Source 3)</li> <li>• “The materials can be as inexpensive as a set of sticks and tissue paper or as costly as hand-sewn silk.” (Source 3)</li> <li>• “Designs can be simple like a diamond kite or quite complex like a dragon kite.” (Source 3)</li> <li>• “...a beautiful kite often encourages people to ask questions, which makes this hobby a great way to meet new people.” (Source 3)</li> <li>• “There are kite festivals around the world where people can show their skills in making and flying kites.” (Source 3)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Scoring Rubric – Top Score Response</b>
Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A complete response will acknowledge information from the other passages and the counterclaim. Examples may include but are not limited to.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Some hobbies can be quite challenging. Screen printing is one such hobby.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “The cost of beginning this hobby is higher than some others. It requires a screen-printing press or printing table, which can be expensive. Screen printing also requires inks and various items on which to print.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “It may take more time to learn screen printing than some other hobbies.” (Source 4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If students choose screen printing as a hobby, a complete response will provide support for the claim that screen printing is a better choice for a hobby than making kites. Details and evidence may include but are not limited to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence that screen printing is healthy should be provided.                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Once the time factor is overcome, it may be eye-opening to realize how hobbies can benefit mind, body, and heart.” (Source 1)</li> <li>● “The change of pace from the routine of everyday life benefits mental health.” (Source 1)</li> <li>● “Interest in a hobby can help build relationships among people with similar interests and expand social networks.” (Source 1)</li> <li>● “Although screen printing is not an easy hobby, it is a rewarding one that can teach life skills such as patience and precision.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “However, it is highly satisfying.” (Source 4)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Evidence that screen printing can lead to a future career should be provided.                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “...Those who enjoy the artistic work of screen printing may consider using that skill in a potential career.” (Source 2)</li> <li>● “Since screen-printing materials are widely available, the practice has become quite popular.” (Source 2)</li> <li>● “A person who does screen printing operates the machinery and tools in a shop.” (Source 2)</li> <li>● “Professional screen printers can run, troubleshoot, and adjust machinery as well as work quickly and provide high-quality results.” (Source 2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Scoring Rubric – Top Score Response</b>
Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence that screen printing is the best hobby should be provided.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “The results can be vivid and colorful. The same image can be reproduced repeatedly on surfaces such as paper, cloth, and glass.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “The creative process of screen printing produces designs on useful items, such as clothing.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “...you can create your own message and express yourself through your clothing.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “Drawing skills are not necessary for screen printing—simple geometric designs can be used.” (Source 4)</li> <li>● “Screen printing will keep you busy creating designs and printing them on different items.” (Source 4)</li> </ul> </li>   <li>○ A complete response will acknowledge information from the other passages and the counterclaim. Examples may include but are not limited to.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “While designing and making a kite stretches people’s creative skills, flying a kite gets people moving outdoors.” (Source 3)</li> <li>● “They stretch their neck and shoulder muscles when looking up at the kite, which promotes flexibility. ” (Source 3)</li> <li>● “Also, kite flying usually requires large open areas such as parks or fields, and studies have shown that being out in nature is good for mental health.” (Source 3)</li> <li>● Flying a kite during dangerous weather can be risky. "In 1752, Ben Franklin flew a kite connected to both hemp and silk strings and a key during a thunderstorm. When Franklin moved his hand near the key, it sparked, making it possible for him to show that lightning and static electricity are related." (Source 2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**(10 Points)**