

MY SAT ONLINE SCORE REPORT

SAT TEST MARCH 12, 2011

Joshua Wu

NOT AN OFFICIAL SCORE REPORT

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Writing: Your Essay

The writing section shows how clearly and effectively you communicate ideas. The essay is part of the writing section.

ESSAY SCORE: 12

POSSIBLE SCORE: 2 - 12

ESSAY PROMPT

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below:

Photographs are very much a part of our daily lives. They show us faraway places, things to buy, important people and happenings, and sometimes just the ordinary. These pictures seem like frozen moments of real life. Cameras do copy what is in front of the lens, and so, in that sense, photographs show us what is real. They are at the same time, however, creations of the artist's intentions and unconscious mind.

Adapted from Leslie Sills, In Real Life: Six Women Photographers

ASSIGNMENT: Are photographs straightforward representations of real life, or are they artistic creations reflecting the photographer's point of view? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

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ESSAY IMAGE:

Begin your essay on this page. If you need more space, continue on the next page.

Photographs depict for its beholders artistic representations of their realities. Perhaps they lack life due to their rigid, unchanging state, but that does not deter them from giving a literal snapshot of the perspective of life it conveys. The photographers responsible for taking these photographs are similar; they give their opinions and point-of-views for what they consider is reality. And what they judge as reality often is truly what we perceive as the "real deal." But for others, photographs can convey a misrepresentative portrayal of the life that lies within the veil of photography. So though in a sense photographs do display an accurate snapshot of its captured items, what is more important is the interpretation of the viewers and the thoughts the pictures leave behind for them.

An interesting example that recurs frequently is the phenomenon of selected photographs used as primary sources of information for the purpose of documenting history. Photographs are convenient ways to show the general idea or atmosphere of its setting, but they may not be completely representative. Consider the aftermath of the stock market crash during the Great Depression. People across America struggle to retain what was left of their investment; still they suffered terrible losses. Photographs captured the mad rush of these men, scrambling to sell their stocks and further lower the market price, sending

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ESSAY IMAGE:

Continuation of ESSAY Section 1 from previous page. Write below only if you need more space.
IMPORTANT: DO NOT START on this page — If you do, your essay may appear blank and your score may be affected.

unimaginable amounts of money into the stock market's virtual void. The photographs did not capture any of this; rather, all they showed was the men running, stock bonds flying around the room, as if a sort of commotion had taken place, but no one can tell exactly what it was. What did the men have to say about this catastrophe? No one will know, for those are the limits of photographs.

Pictures depicting war give another example. In World War II, the Allied forces rushed to the front lines to battle Germany from the French region of Normandy all the way to Berlin. Some highly regarded photographs also come from this event; however, whether they truly depicted the exact conditions and horrors of the war is a completely different question. Instead, photographers tended to glorify the war. Soldiers were portrayed as heroes standing tall on the tops of German infrastructure rubble, hoisting the American flag. Certainly, the photo brought much hope and security to the hearts of unwitting civilians, but did the citizens of America deserve a false truth? They were not presented with the best visual documentation.

A literary example also utilizes this sort of propaganda. In *Fahrenheit 451*, the city which Guy Montag lives in is full of photographs on billboards indicating how the city is prospering, when in reality it is not. The photographs serve as misleading images of a censored, dystopian world.

In conclusion, photographs may be useful, but one should exercise much care in their interpretations.

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Essay Scoring Guide

The essay will be scored by experienced and trained high school and college teachers. Each essay will be scored by two people who won't know each other's score. They won't know the student's identity or school either. Each reader will give the essay a score from 1 to 6 (6 is the highest score) based on the following scoring guide.

SCORE OF 6

An essay in this category demonstrates **clear** and **consistent mastery**, although it may have a few minor errors. A typical essay

- effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- is well organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas
- exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary
- demonstrates meaningful variety in sentence structure
- is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

SCORE OF 5

An essay in this category demonstrates **reasonably consistent mastery**, although it will have occasional errors or lapses in quality. A typical essay

- effectively develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates strong critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- is well organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and progression of ideas
- exhibits facility in the use of language, using appropriate vocabulary
- demonstrates variety in sentence structure
- is generally free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

SCORE OF 4

An essay in this category demonstrates **adequate mastery**, although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay

- develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- is generally organized and focused, demonstrating some coherence and progression of ideas
- exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary
- demonstrates some variety in sentence structure
- has some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

SCORE OF 3

An essay in this category demonstrates **developing mastery**, and is marked by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:

- develops a point of view on the issue, demonstrating some critical thinking, but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position
- is limited in its organization or focus, or may demonstrate some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas
- displays developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes uses weak vocabulary or inappropriate word choice
- lacks variety or demonstrates problems in sentence structure
- contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

SCORE OF 2

An essay in this category demonstrates **little mastery**, and is flawed by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:

- develops a point of view on the issue that is vague or seriously limited, and demonstrates weak critical thinking, providing inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position
- is poorly organized and/or focused, or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas
- displays very little facility in the use of language, using very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice
- demonstrates frequent problems in sentence structure
- contains errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics so serious that meaning is somewhat obscured

SCORE OF 1

An essay in this category demonstrates **very little** or **no mastery**, and is severely flawed by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:

- develops no viable point of view on the issue, or provides little or no evidence to support its position
- is disorganized or unfocused, resulting in a disjointed or incoherent essay
- displays fundamental errors in vocabulary
- demonstrates severe flaws in sentence structure
- contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning

Essays not written on the essay assignment will receive a score of zero.