

# 2019 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

### SECTION II

Total time—2 hours and 15 minutes

#### Question 1

**Suggested reading and writing time—55 minutes.**

**It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the question, analyzing and evaluating the sources, and 40 minutes writing your response.**

**Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.**

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

In response to our society's increasing demand for energy, large-scale wind power has drawn attention from governments and consumers as a potential alternative to traditional materials that fuel our power grids, such as coal, oil, natural gas, water, or even newer sources such as nuclear or solar power. Yet the establishment of large-scale, commercial-grade wind farms is often the subject of controversy for a variety of reasons.

Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each source. Then synthesize material from at least three of the sources and incorporate it into a coherent, well-written essay in which you develop your position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm.

Your argument should be the focus of your essay. Use the sources to develop your argument and explain the reasoning for it. Avoid merely summarizing the sources. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from, whether through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. You may cite the sources as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the descriptions in parentheses.

Source A (photo)  
Source B (Layton)  
Source C (Seltenrich)  
Source D (Brown)  
Source E (Rule)  
Source F (Molla)

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**Source A**

Winchell, Joshua. "Wind Turbines." *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Digital Library*, 25 Mar. 2009, [digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/ref/collection/natdiglib/id/6861](https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/ref/collection/natdiglib/id/6861).

*The photograph below was taken for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*



Source B

Layton, Julia. "How Wind Power Works."  
*HowStuffWorks*, 9 Aug. 2006,  
[science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/  
 green-science/wind-power.htm](http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/wind-power.htm).

*The following is excerpted from a popular Web site dedicated to explaining various processes.*

On a global scale, wind turbines are currently generating about as much electricity as eight large nuclear power plants. That includes not only utility-scale turbines, but also small turbines generating electricity for individual homes or businesses (sometimes used in conjunction with photovoltaic solar energy). A small, 10-kW-capacity turbine can generate up to 16,000 kWh per year, and a typical U.S. household consumes about 10,000 kWh in a year.

A typical large wind turbine can generate up to 1.8 MW\* of electricity, or 5.2 million KWh annually, under ideal conditions—enough to power nearly 600 households. Still, nuclear and coal power plants can produce electricity cheaper than wind turbines can. So why use wind energy? The two biggest reasons for using wind to generate electricity are the most obvious ones: Wind power is **clean**, and it's **renewable**. It doesn't release harmful gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere the way coal does . . . and we are in no danger of running out of wind anytime soon. There is also the independence associated with wind energy, as any country can generate it at home with no foreign support. And a wind turbine can bring electricity to remote areas not served by the central power grid.

But there are downsides, too. Wind turbines can't always run at 100 percent power like many other types of power plants, since wind speeds fluctuate. Wind turbines can be noisy if you live close to a wind plant, they can be hazardous to birds and bats, and in hard-packed desert areas there is a risk of land erosion if you dig up the ground to install turbines. Also, since wind is a relatively unreliable source of energy, operators of wind-power plants have to back up the system with a small amount of reliable, non-renewable energy for times when wind speeds die down. Some argue that the use of unclean energy to support the production of clean energy cancels out the benefits, but the wind industry claims that the amount of unclean energy that's necessary to maintain a steady supply of electricity in a wind system is far too small to defeat the benefits of generating wind power.

Potential disadvantages aside, the United States has a good number of wind turbines installed, totaling more than 9,000 MW of generating capacity in 2006. That capacity generates in the area of 25 billion kWh of electricity, which sounds like a lot but is actually less than 1 percent of the power generated in the country each year. As of 2005, U.S. electricity generation breaks down like this:

- **Coal:** 52%
- **Nuclear:** 20%
- **Natural Gas:** 16%
- **Hydropower:** 7%
- **Other** (including wind, biomass, geothermal and solar) 5%

The current total electricity generation in the United States is in the area of 3.6 trillion kWh every year. Wind has the potential to generate far more than 1 percent of that electricity.

\*1 MW (megawatt) = 1,000 kWh (kilowatts)

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## Source C

Seltenrich, Nate. “Wind Turbines: A Different Breed of Noise?” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, vol. 122, no. 1, Jan. 2014. National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, [ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.122-A20.pdf](http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.122-A20.pdf).

*The following is excerpted from an article in a peer-reviewed journal published by a federally funded research institute. The numbered notes refer to source information that has been omitted from this excerpt for length.*

Large-scale wind turbines are a relatively recent innovation, so the body of peer-reviewed research addressing the potential impacts of their unique brand of sound is sparse and particularly unsettled. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests a connection between turbines and a constellation of symptoms including nausea, vertigo, blurred vision, unsteady movement, and difficulty reading, remembering, and thinking.<sup>24</sup>

The polarizing issue of wind-turbine noise is often framed one of two ways: Turbines are either harmless,<sup>25</sup> or they tend to have powerful adverse effects, especially for sensitive individuals.<sup>26</sup> According to Jim Cummings, executive director of the nonprofit Acoustic Ecology Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico, most of the reports to date that have concluded turbines are harmless examined “direct” effects of sound on people and tended to discount “indirect” effects moderated by annoyance, sleep disruption, and associated stress. But research that considered indirect pathways has yielded evidence strongly suggesting the potential for harm.

Multiple recent studies, including one coauthored by Daniel Shepherd, senior lecturer at New Zealand’s Auckland University of Technology, have demonstrated that sleep interference gets worse the nearer residents are to turbines.<sup>20,27</sup> “Sleep is absolutely vital for an organism,” he says. “When we lose a night’s sleep, we become dysfunctional. The brain is an important organ, and if noise is disturbing its functioning, then that is a direct health effect.”

In another recent study, Shepherd made a case for approaching the debate from a social or humanistic standpoint, taking perceived effects seriously even if the potential mechanisms through which they occur remain unclear. Many reasons exist for taking this approach with wind-turbine noise, he wrote.<sup>28</sup>

First is that turbine noise (that is, the aerodynamic noise produced by air moving around the spinning blades as opposed to any mechanical noise from the motor itself) is often deemed more annoying than the hum or roar of transportation noise because of its repetitive nature and high variability in both level and quality—from “swoosh” to “thump” to silence, all modulated by wind speed and direction. This pulsing, uneven quality enables the noise to repeatedly capture the attention and become more difficult to ignore.<sup>29,30</sup>

In addition, unlike vehicle traffic, which tends to get quieter after dark, turbines can sound louder overnight. As Cummings explains, “Often at night, wind shear sets in. This creates conditions with moderate winds at hub height and a sharp boundary layer below which winds are much lower, or even near still.” The absolute noise level of the wind farm may be no more than during the day, but it can be 10–20 decibels louder than the quieter nighttime ambient sound levels. This detail has important implications for sleep disruption.

Third, wind turbines generate lower frequencies of sound than traffic. These lower frequencies tend to be judged as more annoying than higher frequencies and are more likely to travel through walls and windows.<sup>31</sup> Infrasound, or sound frequency lower than 20 Hz—in audible to the human ear—has been associated in some studies with symptoms including fatigue, sleeplessness, and irritability,<sup>32</sup> as well as with changes to the physiology of the inner ear that have poorly understood implications.<sup>33</sup>

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### Source D

Brown, Hal. "Blowin' in the Wind: Texas Ranchers Turn to Turbines." *E: The Environmental Magazine*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2008. *Academic Search Premier*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=28052795&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

*The following is excerpted from an article in a magazine that features articles on environmental issues.*

In sun-seared West Texas, oil and gas producers have driven the regional economy since the mid-1920s. Now there's a new player in town—electricity-generating wind turbines. The turbines are sprouting by the hundreds on the low mesas that dot the desert landscape.

Wind turbines came to the small West Texas town of McCamey with the millennium. Construction began in 2000, and the first machines came on line in 2001. Florida Power and Light (FPL) now runs 688 area turbines.

"There are three things you're going to have to find," says Neil James, production manager for the FPL wind operations around McCamey. "That's the wind, the transmission lines and the land. The McCamey area is very abundant in those three things."

McCamey, population 1,600, has always been blessed with petroleum resources, but the oil business boom-and-bust cycles have taken their toll. Oil production in Upton County dropped almost 25 percent from 1972 (when it was 12.5 million barrels) to 1999 (9.4 million barrels).

Wind power has restored McCamey's economy. It now bills itself as the "Wind Energy Capital of Texas." "It was dying there for a little bit," admits Alicia Sanchez, who heads McCamey's economic development office. "Now taxes have increased 30 percent from 2004 to 2007. All we can see is positive." Texans apparently agree. An FPL-commissioned study released earlier this year said 93 percent support further development of wind energy in the state.

Federal tax credits, coupled with a Texas mandate requiring that a percentage of electricity come from green power producers, have spurred development. Rick Doehn manages rights of way and surface lands leasing for the state's Permanent University Fund, which supports the University of Texas and other Texas institutions, and also owns 2.1 million acres, chiefly in West Texas. Doehn says wind turbine leases and oil and gas leases often involve the same land. "The electric companies didn't see any problems with oil rigs," he says. "They're towers, but they're only up for a month or two, unless it's a very deep well."

Texas' other historic industry, ranching, loves the turbines. Rancher Ernest Woodward said he can't imagine any harm coming to his livestock from nearby turbines. "Windmills are very clean," Woodward said. "There's nothing that's harmful to the environment that I know of." Bird kills, he says, are not a problem because West Texas fowl have little problem avoiding the slow-moving (20 revolutions per minute) turbine blades.

For some ranchers, wind turbines bring with them an economic incentive that oil and gas do not. "Wind power is a surface activity," Doehn says. "With oil and gas the minerals are underneath, and a lot of ranchers don't own the mineral rights. Many of them sold off the minerals in order to get enough money to retain the surface rights when times were tough."

Woodward, who has both wind leases and oil leases on his ranch between McCamey and Fort Stockton, says there's room enough for both. There are 243 of the big wind turbines turning on Woodward Mesa. He gets a six to eight percent royalty payment on the power the turbines make. "We're just living off the land and whatever else we can do. We're glad to have them," he says.

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### Source E

Rule, Troy A. *Solar, Wind and Land: Conflicts in Renewable Energy Development*. Routledge, 2014.

*The following is excerpted from a recent scholarly book.*

Without question, the gargantuan wind turbines installed in today’s commercial wind farms can materially alter a landscape’s appearance. Modern utility-scale wind turbines commonly exceed 400 feet in height, towering well above any other buildings or structures in their vicinities and tall enough to be seen from several miles away. Even in rural areas where population densities are relatively low, turbines can impose significant costs by disrupting territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an area’s existing natural backdrop. The presence of turbines continues into the night, when turbine safety lighting often required under federal aviation laws flashes across an otherwise pristine evening sky.

Unfortunately, only so much can be done to disguise commercial wind turbines from view. Because the colors naturally occurring in the sky and on land tend to change with the seasons and time of day, it is often impossible to successfully camouflage turbines with paint such that they blend in with their surroundings. Painting designs on turbines or painting them multiple colors tends to only make them more distracting, and painting them gray can make them seem “dirty” or “associated with an industrial, urban, or military character.” Consequently, most commercial wind turbines are painted white—a color choice based partly on a belief that bright white turbines “convey a positive image” and are “associated with cleanliness.”

Installing smaller, shorter turbines to make them less conspicuous to neighbors is also rarely a viable option. The energy productivity of natural wind tends to increase significantly with altitude, so turbines are purposely designed to stand high above the ground to capture those more productive wind currents. By towering well above the earth’s surface, modern commercial wind turbines also avoid turbulence from nearby buildings and trees that might otherwise diminish their productivity. And the sheer size of a commercial wind turbine’s rotor, which directly affects its generating capacity, requires that the turbine be mounted upon a tall tower.

Unable to camouflage or shrink the size of utility-scale wind turbines, wind energy developers must often find ways to assuage locals’ concerns about the potential visual impacts of these enormous devices. Developers’ ability to do so depends in part on local residents’ subjective views about the attractiveness of the turbines themselves. Indeed, wind turbines are no different from any other structure in that their beauty or ugliness ultimately rests in the eye of their beholder. Some scholars have suggested that wind farms could and should be more commonly viewed as works of art. Citing the widespread depiction of windmills in notable seventeenth-century Dutch paintings and the large-scale environmental art projects of famous artists such as Christo Javacheff, they argue that commercial wind energy projects should be perceived as artistic creations rather than industrial blight.

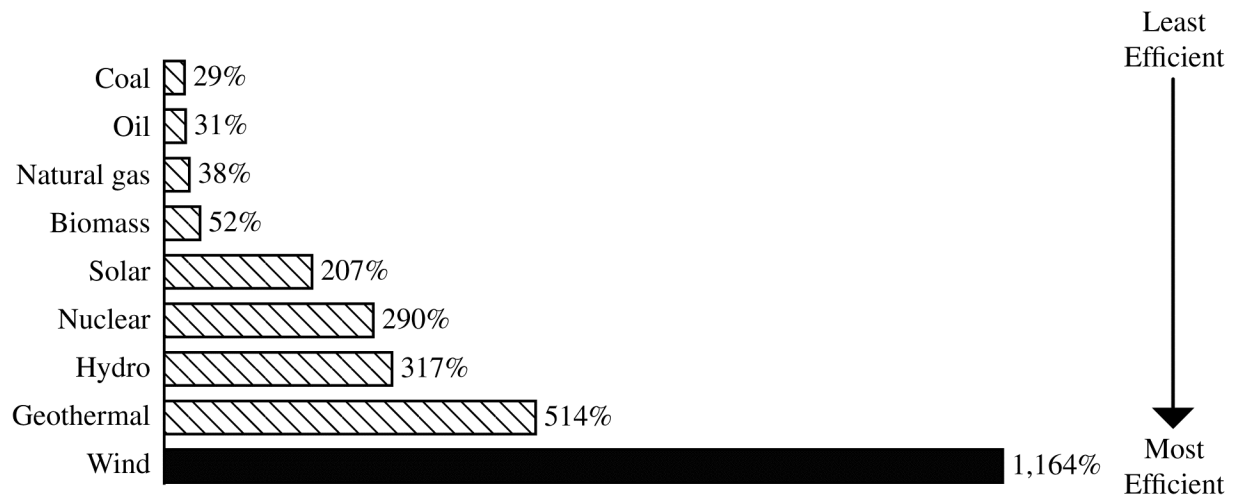
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### Source F

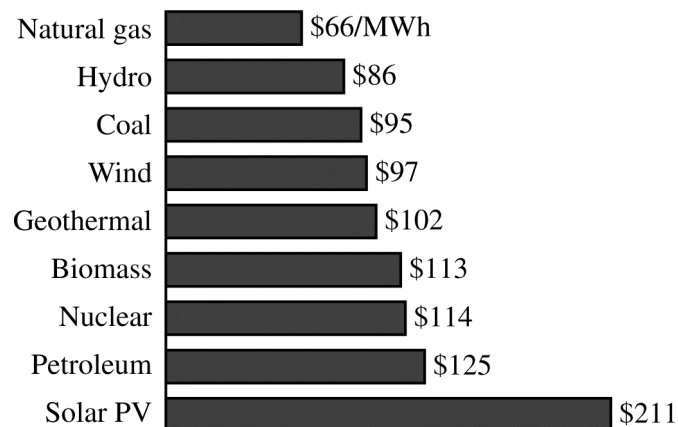
Molla, Rani. "What Is the Most Efficient Source of Electricity?" *Wall Street Journal*, 15 Sept. 2014, [blogs.wsj.com/numbers/what-is-the-most-efficient-source-of-electricity-1754/](https://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/what-is-the-most-efficient-source-of-electricity-1754/).

The following is excerpted from a blog on a news site that examines the mathematics behind common events.

### PERCENTAGE OF ENERGY INPUT RETAINED WHEN CONVERTING FUEL TO ELECTRICITY



### COST TO PRODUCE 1 MWh OF ELECTRICITY IN 2009 (United States Dollars)



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## 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1

**General Directions:** This scoring guide is designed so that the same performance expectations are applied to all student responses. It will be useful for most of the essays you read, but if it seems inappropriate for a specific paper, ask your Table Leader for assistance. Always show your Table Leader booklets that seem to have no response or that contain responses that seem unrelated to the question. Do not assign a score of 0 or — without this consultation.

Your score should reflect an evaluation of the paper as a whole. Remember that students had only 15 minutes to read the sources and 40 minutes to write; the paper, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged according to standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the paper as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well. The evaluation should focus on the evidence and explanations that the student uses to support the response; students should not be penalized for taking a particular perspective. All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into your holistic evaluation of a paper's overall quality. In no case should you give a score higher than a 2 to a paper with errors in grammar and mechanics that persistently interfere with your understanding of meaning.

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9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for the score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in development, or impressive in their control of language.

#### 8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by effectively synthesizing\* at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations appropriately and convincingly support the writer's position. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

7 Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for the score of 6 but provide more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

#### 6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 **adequately** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by adequately synthesizing at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations appropriately and sufficiently support the writer's position. The language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 Essays earning a score of 5 develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by synthesizing at least three sources, but the evidence and explanations used to support that position 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.

#### 4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by



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## 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

synthesizing at least two sources, but that position may be inappropriately, insufficiently, or unconvincingly supported by the evidence and explanations used. 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. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in developing a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They are less perceptive in their understanding of the sources, or the evidence and explanations used may be particularly limited or simplistic. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

### 2 Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in developing a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. 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 or inaccurate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of control.

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.


0 Indicates an off-topic response, one that merely repeats the prompt, an entirely crossed-out response, a drawing, or a response in a language other than English.

— Indicates an entirely blank response.

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

According to a recent report on ~~the~~ ~~coming~~ Climate change published by the United Nations, ~~Earth is expected to rise~~ Earth's global climate temperature is expected to rise by  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the coming decades and the effects can potentially be catastrophic unless real intervention is taken. Thus, it is imperative that nations more thoroughly examine <sup>clean</sup> energy sources without carbon emissions, such as wind energy. Agencies looking to establish wind farms should consider the geographic location of their potential wind farm and its vicinity to resident communities, ~~before making any decisions~~ in order to avoid stirring up more controversy in society's debate on how to settle an increasingly demanding appetite for energy.

Primarily, agencies should consider the geographic location of a potential wind farm before actually establishing it. Wind farms occupy hundreds of acres of space and as Joshua Winchell's photograph illustrates, often require a large-scale, uniform, and isolated terrain (source A). This is crucial for agencies to consider because building a wind farm on a location that does not meet these demands could inhibit the full capacity of energy output and require even more energy input to sustain, reducing the net benefits that the wind farm can have. Without ~~properly~~ ~~select~~ a proper location, agencies building large-scale wind farms become more open and vulnerable to criticism which can stifle the overall progression of clean energy resources. Furthermore, agencies must take into account how productive their turbines will



A2

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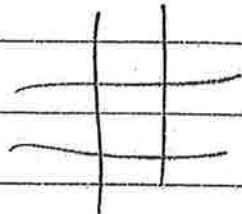
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be. ~~based on the~~ "Since wind speeds fluctuate" they can't "always run at 100 percent power" (Source B). Julia Layton goes on to mention that turbines can be "hazardous to birds and bats, and in hard-packed desert areas there is a risk of land erosion" (Source B). ~~Other~~ Factors such as average wind speeds and the local fauna must be considered so that potential wind farms are not inflicting harm on their environment. After all, what is the point in trying to save the planet if the process inflicts too much harm? Thus, with proper consideration to the terrain, climate and local species in the overall geographic location, wind farms can be established in appropriate locations without causing much harm or controversy.

Secondly, agencies must consider any potential wind farm's vicinity to resident communities and those effects before establishing any large scale farms. ~~While wind farms are a source of clean~~ While wind farms may not be interfering with the Earth's climate, they certainly interfere with human sleep patterns. Nate Seltzerich of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences points out how "sleep interference gets worse the ~~more~~ nearer residents are to turbines" which is detrimental because "when we lose a night's sleep, we become dysfunctional" (Seltzerich). If wind farms are built too close to resident communities, sleep within these communities becomes impaired. ~~The more energy source there~~ The more inconvenient this energy source is, the more controversy there is surrounding it, ultimately leaving people less accepting of this clean energy source. ~~Not only that~~ However, local resident concerns for wind turbines extends to their style as well.


Troy A. Rule ~~points out that~~ emphasizes the "territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural backdrop" (source E). This concern also extends to light pollution as "turbine safety lighting often required under federal ~~the~~ aviation laws flashes across an otherwise pristine evening sky" (source E). ~~that~~ These resident concerns are crucial for agencies to address ~~since~~ since the expansion of wind energy will be discouraged if it upsets the communities surrounding it. Like the harsh, glaring, white design of wind turbines themselves, agencies must find a way to control their image by being selective in the places where farms are established. Overall, the vicinity <sup>to</sup> and effect of wind turbines on resident communities must be considered ~~before agencies~~ so that agencies can place their beneficial, clean, and safe turbines in places where they will be appreciated.

In the ongoing, controversial debate surrounding wind farms, agencies looking to establish these farms should consider their geographic location and vicinity ~~to residents~~ to and effect on resident communities. ~~While~~ While there are many problems associated with wind energy, ultimately it is a legitimate and possible solution to one of the biggest climate catastrophes facing planet Earth.



In response to our society's increasing demand for energy, large-scale wind power has drawn attention from governments and consumers as a potential alternative to traditional materials that fuel our power grids such as coal, oil, gas, and water. Thus, because <sup>wind-based</sup> turbines pose as an auditory and visual distraction and ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> be ~~considered~~ an unreliable source of energy due to wind fluctuation, one must consider ~~the~~ <sup>population</sup> distribution, and the average wind speed in a particular location prior to establishing a wind farm.

~~Agencies~~ <sup>Agencies</sup> must consider the avg. wind speed of particular geographical region, prior to establishing a wind farm in order to achieve the most efficient ~~method~~ of energy production. According to <sup>Layton, Julia</sup> ~~source A~~, <sup>in</sup> ~~source B~~ <sup>in</sup> "How Wind Power Works", Layton proposes the concession that wind turbines can't always run at 100% percent power like other sources of power; wind speeds fluctuate. <sup>(Source B)</sup> In other words, Layton highlights that wind speed and consistency is an important factor when trying to achieve the best method of producing energy with windpower. In the image titled "Wind Turbines", Windell accommodates for Layton's concession by providing an image that indicates where and how turbines should be placed <sup>(Source A)</sup>. According to the image, the turbines are placed in an open-ended location with vast





Br.


1

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distance between each to generate as much power as possible. Through Winchell's ~~manipulation~~ <sup>image</sup>, Winchell is able to provide a solution to Layton's concession and concern for wind turbine inconsistency or inefficiency.

Ultimately, when establishing a wind farm, agencies should consider the ~~maximum~~ <sup>avg. speed</sup> wind of wind in a particular area in order to obtain maximum results; the more vast and open-ended the area is, the more ~~more~~ wind speed is available leading to an <sup>abundance</sup> output of energy production.

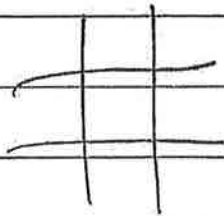
Residents near turbines often complain that turbines pose as a visual and auditorial distraction when trying to go about their daily lives; thus agencies should also consider population distribution when creating a wind farm to avoid further complaints. According to "Wind Turbines: A Different Breed of Noise?", Seltenrich notes that the indirect effects of establishing a wind farm include "annoyance, sleep disruption, and associated stress" (Source C). In other words, turbines are an auditorial threat to residents' health. Seltenrich also argues through anecdotal evidence that there is a correlation between turbines and symptoms of "nausea, vertigo, blurred vision, etc." (Source C). Quite similarly, in "Wind and Land: Conflicts in Renewable Energy Development", Rule states that residents who have grown attached to the natural backdrop of their home feel that turbines disrupt territorial views (Source E).



Additionally, attempted methods of camouflage will only result in more of a distraction for local residents (source 8). Both Rahr and Seltenrich utilize the perspectives of nearby residents to identify the flaws in establishing a wind farm near in ~~densely~~ densely populated areas.


Overall, when establishing a wind farm it is extremely important for agencies to ~~add~~ place turbines in areas further from densely populated areas to avoid residential complaints.

Concludingly, when agencies begin to <sup>consider</sup> ~~make~~ the average wind speed and residential population distribution of a particular area, wind turbines can be extremely effective for energy production at a low cost. In "What Is the Most Efficient Source of Electricity?", the diagram labeled "Percentage of Energy Input Retained When Converting Fuel to Electricity" illustrates that wind power is the most efficient with 1,164% of energy input retained. Thus, with careful regulation, and <sup>proper</sup> consideration of avg. wind speed and population distribution, wind farms have the potential to be the next best commercial grade for energy.



As environmental awareness and concern increases, there is a clear drive for the implementation of clean energy sources. Not only should these resources be available to large corporations but also ~~also~~ individuals and families. One popular example is solar energy, characterized by family homes with panels on their roof. However, the landscape of clean energy is shifting from solar power to a focus on wind energy harvested by turbines. This ~~shift~~ transition requires those responsible for developing wind farms to consider a variety of factors as they decide to establish wind farms; while there are many important aspects to analyze, the two most pertinent are the multifaceted issues of location and cost.

First, consider the many implications of deciding on a location for a wind farm, or even a single turbine. As Julia Layton explains, there are some areas that are not suitable for wind farms due to the risk of land erosion, such as "hard-packed desert areas" (source B). This introduces the first notable problem with determining a location for a wind farm, as ~~as~~ a desertous area would be far less likely to be inhabited by people than an area with rich soil suitable for farming. ~~However, land that is not~~ Because land that is suitable for wind farms is also suitable for human habitation, an agency responsible for establishing





Q 1

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a wind farm may struggle to find ample space due to the negative impacts turbines appear to have on human health. According to Nate Seltzer, there is evidence that suggests turbines cause adverse effects on those forced to live in close proximity, such as "nausea, vertigo, blurred vision" as well as a slew of other symptoms (Source C). This evidence indicates that there is a need for new turbine farms to occupy land ~~at a~~ an appropriate distance from other people, which may be difficult considering the <sup>structural</sup> needs of wind turbines.

Beyond the simple impact of a physical location's influence of the land and people, Layton also explains that the turbines have a hazardous effect on birds and bats (Source B). This indicates that turbine farms should avoid areas with particularly endangered species so as to mitigate the risk of adversely and significantly impacting a population. However, ~~evidence from~~ rancher Ernest Woodward, in Hal Brown's magazine article, contends that he cannot imagine harm coming to Texas wildlife due to the "slow moving... turbine blades" (Source D). This ~~shows that~~ specific reference shows that not only is there a need for a deeper analysis of the impact

of wind turbines on wildlife populations, <sup>also</sup> but that there is a ~~good~~ high ~~likely~~ likelihood that wind turbine farms could safely occupy areas already populated by airborne creatures.

One must also consider the ~~so~~ monetary impacts wind turbines can have. As the most efficient form of energy (regarding energy input when ~~it~~ is converted to energy), wind energy has a clear ~~monetary~~ cost-benefit (Source F). This is in conflict with the amount of energy ~~generated~~ turbines generate, which is less than one percent of the nation wide total (Source B). The intricacies of this element are further confounded when combined with the information that there are some nations in Europe ~~which~~ that are entirely powered by wind. It is readily apparent that it is possible to take advantage of this natural resource, and that there are monetary benefits to doing ~~so~~ <sup>known</sup>. However, this assertion is perhaps due to the fact that wind energy costs ~~97~~ ninety-seven dollars per one MWh of electricity, compared to natural gas's sixty-six dollars (Source F). Despite this cost difference, ~~least~~ wind farms hold benefits for both companies and individuals ~~in the~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~profit~~ based standpoint. As Brown explains, wind power

→

C4

Q1


Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

holds appeal ~~not only for~~ for ranchers in particular, as wind power is a "surface activity" and does not depend on a rancher owning the mineral rights to ~~his~~ their property (Source D). Brown also describes the benefits those creating a wind farm experience, which include tax credits, not to mention compliance with new state legislation (applicable in Texas) (Source D). These <sup>results</sup> ~~benefits~~, ~~coupled with~~ which mitigate the slight cost disparity between wind power and other resources make clear the cost benefits of wind power.

It is readily apparent that though there are many aspects one must consider before building a wind farm, or even just a single turbine, the benefits far outweigh the costs. As the nation shifts towards a more "green" energy landscape, it is likely that wind energy will be at the forefront of the nation's power.

The establishment of wind turbines and wind farms is a newly risen controversial topic in society. Wind turbines<sup>are</sup> a modern energy source, that ~~are~~ clean and reusable, but come with a price. Many argue the prices and few drawbacks out-weigh the benefits. There are many factors to consider when establishing a wind farm; including environmental advantages, economics, and potential health issues.

The first factor that should be considered is the environmental advantage. Wind farms produce an immense amount of electricity. Not to mention, wind farms are the most efficient source by over 500% when compared to fuel sources (Source F, Molla). In a ~~new~~ world where our environment is no question deteriorating, wind farms efficiency could play an important factor in helping our conditions. In society today, consumers fall to coal, oil and natural gas for energy sources. These three sources combined account for 98% efficiency, compared to wind turbines 1.164%, at-weighing all other sources by a lot. Not to mention, wind energy is completely clean. It doesn't release any harmful gases into the air unlike coal (Source B, Layton). Wind turbines combine





efficiency with cleanliness for the environment, producing mass amounts of electricity.

Another factor that should be considered is economics.

~~What has not looked at is the cost of the energy. Wind turbines have saved industries financially in general ways.~~

Wind turbines have saved industries financially in general ways. A small town in Texas has relied on oil and gas producers to run their economy for years. However, a recent drop in production has been saved by wind turbines. As the country's supply of oil and other natural gases continues to decline, citizens are going to be forced to find other ways to get the energy needed. Wind farms are a simple solution to this problem, "bringing an economic incentive that oil and gas do not" (Source D, Brown). Without wind power, the town of McCombey and towns alike would struggle financially for years to come.


~~What has not looked at is the cost of the energy. Wind turbines have saved industries financially in general ways.~~

In addition, wind farm prices are not that far off from coal and natural gas to produce electricity. The cost to produce 1 MWh of electricity costs \$66 for natural gas and \$95 for coal. Wind power is only \$2 more than that, coming in at \$97 per 1 MWh. Not to mention, wind is a much cleaner and

(Source F, Molla)

even simpler source of energy. Wind farms are an economic advantage in more ways than one.

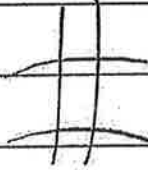
A third factor to consider when establishing a wind farm are the overall drawbacks. Many cases of health issues have been reported along with complaints of landscape appearance. Cases of sleeping problems have been studied in a recent investigation, relating sleep interference becoming worse for those who live closer to the wind turbines (Source C, Seltenrich). This could become a serious problem if it continues to grow. Wind turbines may have to be placed a great distance away from residents, losing their effectiveness. The turbines generate a lower frequency sound, which is more capable of travelling through walls and windows (Source C, Seltenrich) making sleep much more difficult with the constant disturbance to the ears. In addition, many residents are unhappy with the size of the turbines, interfering with their views. Many residents have grown a strong liking to their views and are unhappy about the 400 foot tall turbines, "disrupting territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural backdrop" (Source E, Rule). In this instance, residents are more concerned with their property



Q4 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

and greatly loved views than the use of wind turbines. Agencies cannot leave out the drawbacks when considering to establish a wind farm, especially if it affects people directly.



In today's society, electricity is everything. After a long day at work you go home, sit down and turn on the TV. Did you ever think where your electricity is coming from? Many states and people across the US are converting to <sup>use</sup> windmills as their ~~sup~~ energy source. Some factors you should consider before converting to that source of energy is, ~~they are clean and~~ wind power is clean and renewable, their appearance, and the cost it will be. These factors can determine ~~whether~~ whether you establish a wind farm.

First of all, the source to power the wind farms are wind. These "big fans" are powered by the flow of the wind in our atmosphere. "Wind power is clean, and it's renewable" (Source <sup>Layton</sup> B).

There is always wind in our atmosphere, especially the higher you are, and the wind is clean. The wind isn't manufactured in a factory then released into the air, it is natural. "It doesn't release harmful gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxides into






## Question 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

the atmosphere the way coal does (Source B). Energy sources such as nuclear power plants use harmful gases which are released into the atmosphere. These harmful gases then produces pollution, which sits in our atmosphere. The usage of these turbines can be good for the environment and use natural resources as well.


Secondly, the size and appearance of the ~~turbines~~ wind farms can be a factor as well. "Modern utility-scale wind turbines commonly exceed 400 feet in height" (Rule). These turbines will most likely be larger than the buildings around them. This can factor <sup>in</sup> ~~is~~ because residents may have grown attached to the views. "It is often impossible to successfully camouflage turbines with paint such that they blend in with their surroundings" (Rule). It is difficult to disguise the turbines with their landscapes because the world is always changing. Many suggest to make them colorful and vibrant, but they would be still be



as distracting and not blend with the landscape. The appearance of the wind farms may alter the landscape and its appearance.

Lastly, the cost of the turbines can be good and bad. "A typical large wind turbine can generate up to 1.8 MW\* of electricity, or 5.2 million kWh annually, under ideal conditions—enough to power nearly 600 households" (Layton). One wind turbine could create enough power to generate 600 houses. Imagine the money that would be saved from building hundreds, in a wind farm. In 2014, Rami Molia, had a blog which stated showed that the most efficient energy inputted retained when converting fuel to electricity was wind. It also shows that wind is the fourth lowest, at \$97, to produce 1 MWh of electricity. Using these facts a wind farm is one of the best ways to produce energy based on cost.

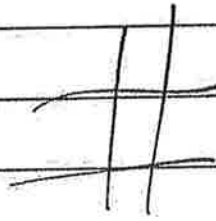
In conclusion, wind farms are a good device used to produce energy. There are good factors such as, wind is clean and



## Ex Question 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.


renewable, as well as the cost. Their  
are also bad factors such as the  
appearance and size that they are.  
These turbines are useful and can be  
used all over the world.



Electricity is something we use on a daily basis but never give much thought to where it comes from. There are many different ways electricity is produced ranging from natural gas to solar power. There is one way of producing electricity which should be used more and that is wind turbines. Wind Turbines should be strongly considered by individuals and agencies when deciding on a production of power.

Wind Turbines are now becoming one of the most powerful ways to produce electricity. According to source B, wind turbines are now generating as much power as ~~the~~ eight large nuclear power plants. This statistic in itself shows the power and potential wind turbines have to overtake other sources of power. Although it is not cheaper than most of its competition, it's clean and renewable. Along with that, there is really no risk of us running out of wind any time soon.

Wind turbines have made outstanding differences in areas like McCombs, Texas. McCombs is a small West Texas town that had been blessed with petroleum resources until the oil business came and took their toll on the small town. According to source D, Oil production dropped from 12.5 million barrels in 1972 to 9.4 million in 1998 showing a decrease of 25 percent. Now thanks to wind power, McCombs's economy has been restored. It is now billed as the "Wind Energy Capital of Texas" and they see ~~nothing~~ nothing



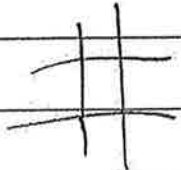
F2 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

but positives.

There have been many arguments against turbines. A large opposition has been made saying these turbines take up large amounts of space in beautiful lands and these turbines have also become a danger to birds. An example of this can be seen in the image of Source A. Along with that, there are complaints of outstanding noise generated by these turbines in ~~Source~~ Source C. All of these complaints aside, that is little price to pay for the amazing ~~efficiency~~ efficiency of these wind turbines.

In all, it is important for everyone to strongly consider wind turbines as a power option. These turbines produce clean and renewable power while being the absolute most efficient. It seems like a no brainer to make the switch over to this great form of electricity production. Using this form means nations do not need to consolidate with other nations since wind is everywhere.



Throughout the years society has always been developing new ways to obtain energy effectively and also efficiently. As for the development of the windmill ~~the~~ there are many important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. These most important factors include, ~~type~~ wind fluctuation, effects the environment ~~and~~

To start off, when dealing with energy resources for example like coal, ~~it~~ it is a very controlled resource that can be ~~main~~ maintained effectively. But as for wind it is not the same case, In most cases wind can become very unpredictable and making it a very unreliable resource to utilize. One example in Source B states, "Wind turbines can't always run at 100 percent power like many other types of power plants, since wind speeds fluctuate." And Because of this ~~unreliable~~ factor <sup>which</sup> that develops



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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

An unreliable resource wind power is the lowest use of electricity generation in the United States.

One other important factor that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm are the many effects that occur to the environment. ~~the environment~~


~~is sitting three desks next to me.~~ Wind farms can alter landscapes appearance.

"...turbines can impose significant costs by disrupting territorial views for residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural back drop." This is a factor that

an ~~idiot~~ individual or agency should consider when ~~establishing~~ wind farms.

Another effect that occurs ~~to~~ to environment is the ~~the~~ disruption and the harm that it causes to the environment.

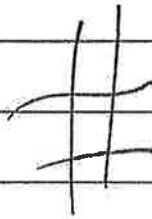
(Source B) states, "wind turbines can be noisy if you live close to a wind plant, they can be hazardous to birds and bats, and in a hard-packed desert there is a risk of land erosion."



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 63

In conclusion, the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm are ~~the~~ wind fluctuation, effects on the environment and the negative impact on wildlife.





The use of wind turbines for power has many benefits and also ~~many~~ many potential ~~drawbacks~~ disadvantages. All of these things should be considered when establishing a wind farm.

Source F shows two graphs. One graph shows different ways energy is produced and which is most efficient. The other graph shows the cost efficiency of each type of energy. The first graph shows wind energy is being the most efficient by more than double of the other types. The second graph shows that wind energy is also in the top 4 least expensive types of energy to produce, as well.

Source B talks about how wind energy is clean and renewable. It doesn't release harmful ~~any~~ gases, and we can't run out of wind. This source also talks about some of the drawbacks of wind energy. Since wind speeds aren't constant, they don't always run. Wind turbines can also be a danger to birds and bats.

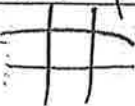
Source C mainly talks about noise being a big drawback. People near wind turbines may have trouble sleeping. The noise doesn't just affect people right next to the turbines. Since the turbines are so tall, the noise affects people anywhere near them.



First off, I'd like to say to my teacher who will most likely read this, I apologise. It's been 3.5 hours and I ~~have~~ <sup>Don't</sup> have enough brain power to write a ~~coherent~~ coherent, well developed essay. But, I will try to tell you about wind farms.

I believe that wind farms are very cool. They are scattered all across Indiana and parts of the north west. They seem like they could be a really good energy source though. Indiana is very windy so there is a lot of energy being produced. Nuclear power sounds dangerous and solar doesn't really work if you live in a place like Alaska or Seattle, Washington that doesn't get a whole bunch of sun.

Wind farms seem like the best option but I'm not entirely sure how expensive they are. That's really the only reason I can think that they might be a problem. They are pretty to look at, they work pretty well I'd guess, and there are probably a bunch of people crazy enough to get up there and work on them. I don't know if loudness is an issue but, there is another problem I see where you can't have them in places where you have a lot of trees. You either have to sacrifice your trees or find a new power source.



# AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## 2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 1

#### Sample Identifier: A

Score: 9

- This effective essay is especially sophisticated and, despite its relatively short length, is thoroughly developed.
- The introduction nicely contextualizes the argument, citing predictions regarding climate change as a reason why wind should be considered at all. In this manner, the student effectively situates the essay within an ongoing conversation and uses the sources to engage perspectives that have already been considered and argued about.
- The essay makes more nuanced assertions, not treating the implementation of wind power as a given: e.g., “These resident concerns are crucial for agencies to address since the expansion of wind energy will be discouraged if it upsets the communities surrounding it.”
- The writer pairs sources C and E nicely with convincing explanation, elaborating on the idea that “concerns for wind turbines extend to their styles as well.”
- Treating the appearance of the turbines as a metaphor for the agencies is one example of the writer’s ability to use stylistic elements to support the development of the argument.
- This essay reaches the 9 for the sophistication of its argument and thorough development.

#### Sample Identifier: B

Score: 8

- This essay is effective as it explores not simply what the factors are but why they matter: as the student discusses wind speed and population distribution, the focus is squarely on why these reasons are the most important.
- The response clearly demonstrates the student’s ability to engage other perspectives and positions, effectively placing sources into conversation with one another: e.g., in the second paragraph, the writer paraphrases, “Layton proposes the concession that wind turbines can’t always run at 100 percent power like other sources of power . . . (Source B).” In the same paragraph, the writer states, “Windell accommodates for Layton’s concession by providing an image that indicates when and how turbines should be place” (Source A).
- The prompt asks about “the most important factors [to] consider when deciding whether to establish a windfarm,” and this essay explores that question directly, concluding, “Thus, with careful regulation, and proper consideration of avg. wind speed and population distribution, wind farms have the potential to be the next best commercial grade for energy.” Such explorations make for an effective essay that goes beyond a simple pro/con argument.

#### Sample Identifier: C

Score: 7

- This essay is adequate, but stronger than a 6.
- The writing exhibits a more mature prose style: e.g., “One popular example is solar energy characterized by family home with panels on their roof. However, the landscape of clean energy is shifting from solar power to a focus on wind energy harvested by turbines.”
- The essay nicely elaborates on the factor of location by considering the potential impact on native wildlife: “turbine farms should avoid areas with particularly endangered species so as to mitigate the risk of adversely and significantly impacting a population.”
- There is more complete integration of sources than in a 6-level paper: e.g., the student uses F, B, and D in the last body paragraph to make a point about cost that is nicely constructed and sufficient for making the point.

# AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## 2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

- The essay does not delve into why the factors it discusses are most important; overall, it is an adequate paper with more complete explanations and a more mature prose style, so it does not move beyond a score of 7.

### Sample Identifier: D

Score: 6

- This adequate essay identifies and discusses factors—environmental advantage, economics, and drawbacks—related to the viability of wind power.
- This essay relies rather heavily on sources, but the student provides sufficient commentary to establish the relevance of cited material to the essay's argument.
- The writer enhances their credibility by considering counter-arguments: in the fourth paragraph, the student discusses potential complications, clearly explaining why agencies “cannot leave out the drawbacks when considering a windfarm, especially if it affects people directly.”
- The writer adequately connects the discussion of factors to “a world where our environment is no question deteriorating.” However, the essay does not delve into why those three factors are the most important ones and does not rise beyond the level of adequate.

### Sample Identifier: E

Score: 5

- This essay does develop a position, identifying in the introduction three factors related to wind power that are dealt with in the body paragraphs: its “clean and renewable” nature, “appearance,” and “cost.”
- Layton's assertion that “Wind power is clean” is followed by the student stating that “wind is clean.” Similarly, Rule's comment about “camouflage” is followed by the student's explanation that wind turbines are “difficult to disguise.” While the essay sometimes moves beyond these paraphrases, they reflect limitations in the student's ability to engage more substantively with the sources and to use them to develop their own argument.
- Although the prose generally conveys the writer's ideas, overall the quality of the response is uneven, as illustrated by its limited conclusion (essentially, that there are “good factors” and “bad factors” and that “[t]hese turbines are useful and can be used all over the world”).

### Sample Identifier: F

Score: 4

- The essay inadequately takes a position on the factors an individual or agency should consider.
- The analysis of examples is insufficient: e.g., “According to source B, wind turbines are now generating as much power as eight large nuclear power plants. This statistic in itself shows the power and potential wind turbines have to overtake other sources of power;” “McCamey's economy has been restored. It is now billed as the ‘Wind Energy Capital of Texas’ and they see nothing but positives.”
- In the fourth paragraph, the essay makes an attempt to discuss the potential drawbacks of wind farms, but the effort is marred by insufficient explanation: the writer identifies cons such as “turbines take large amounts of space” and “complaints of outstanding noise,” but without exploring the cons any further, the writer dismisses these potential drawbacks with assertion that “that is little price to pay for the amazing efficiency.”
- The essay makes questionable links between the source and argument: e.g. “these turbines have also become a danger to birds. An example of this can be seen in the image of Source A.”

# AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## 2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

- The weak conclusion underlines the inadequacy of this response: “Using this form [of energy] means nations do not need to considerate [sic] with other nations since wind is everywhere.”

### Sample Identifier: G

Score: 3

- This inadequate response is less successful than a 4 in its attempt to argue which factors are most important to consider.
- The first body paragraph misrepresents source B, a problem compounded by language issues: e.g., “To start off, when dealing with energy resorces for example like coal it is a very controlled resorce that can be maintaed effectively.” [sic]
- The lack of maturity in writing control throughout is evidenced in moments such as the reference to coal as a “controlled resorce” and wind as the “lowest electricity generation.”
- The second body paragraph has a clear topic sentence, but the subsequent discussion of view and noise are not clearly linked to this sentence. Additionally, the explanation is particularly limited: e.g., “‘turbines can impose significant costs by disrupting territorial views for residents who may have grown attached to an area’s existing natural backdrop.’ This is a factor that an individual or agecy should consider when establishing wind farms.”
- The confusion between “windmill” and “wind farm” is not the reason for the essay’s score of 3; rather, the response meets the criteria for a 4 but demonstrates less success in developing a position and less maturity in its control of writing.

### Sample Identifier: H

Score: 2

- This essay achieves little success, substituting a simpler task: the student summarizes the sources instead of using them to develop a position.
- The essay has little success developing a position and fails to identify any factors; as a result, the student is reduced to making bland generalizations such as “turbines for power has many benefits and also many potential benefits. All of these thing should be considered when establishing a wind a farm.”
- The essay does mention three sources (F,B,C); however, there is no attempt to analyze the sources or to use them to develop a position. Instead, the writer provides a summary of each source.
- For its consistent weaknesses in writing, the essay earns a score of 2.

### Sample Identifier: I

Score: 1

- This essay achieves little success, less so than a 2. It fails to do the work of reading and synthesizing the sources.
- The ideas about expense (“the only reason I can think they might be a problem”) and noise (“I don’t know if loudness is an issue”) reveal a consideration of wind power, but it is an especially simplistic one that blatantly fails to avail itself of information and perspectives offered in the sources.
- The essay does not allude to or cite a single source, but instead speculates haphazardly about wind farms (e.g., “They are pretty to look at, they work pretty well I’d guess.”)
- The direct address to the teacher is NOT the reason for the 1. A student could start with such a less promising opening and then go on to write a solid response.

**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Question 1: Synthesis (2019)**  
**Sample Student Responses**

The student responses in this packet were selected from the 2019 Reading and have been rescored using the new rubrics for 2020. Commentaries for each sample are provided in a separate document.

Student responses have been transcribed verbatim; any errors in spelling or grammar appear as they do in the original handwritten response.



**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Question 1: Synthesis (2019)**  
**Sample Student Responses**

**Sample LL**

[1] As wind farms continue to proliferate all across the United States, the individuals and agencies establishing and supporting them ought to carefully ponder wind farms' effects on local national economies and human comfort/quality of life as their most important considerations.

[2] An old Chinese proverb goes, "when the winds of change blow, some build walls, while others build windmills." The winds of change are blowing across the American economy as the country commences its painstaking-but-necessary switch to clean energy – and that is something investors cannot leave out of consideration as they continue constructing windmills. The depletion of Earth's limited natural resources, coupled with fossil fuel's pernicious effects on Earth's climate, have resulted in a need for the American economy to find new, renewable sources of energy to keep the country's lights on. The Wall Street Journal finds in 2014 that wind energy is not only an option for doing so, but one of the most energy and cost-efficient methods currently in use, with 1,164% of wind energy input retained when connected to electricity at a cost of only \$97/MWH (Source F). Basic economics dictates that any supplier of energy ought to look at prices and cost structures before they decide to invest; wind energy's benefit with regards to this department will be perceived beneficially by those considering whether or not to establish new wind farms. However, the construction of wind farms needs consideration not only in terms of dollar costs, but in terms of human costs as well – for local economies struggling with faltering industry, the arrival of wind energy can revitalize communities and guarantee livelihoods for individuals and their families. Consider the Texas town of McCamey, for example, where the denizens' previous reliance on oil "[took] their toll" through "boom-and-bust" cycles. However, the growth of wind energy "restored McCamey's economy," with "turbines...sprouting by the hundreds" (Source D). Economic insecurity has driven instability and diminished quality of life for centuries and across civilizations. With the construction of wind farms, however, creators of those farms can potentially redress those grievances. For many prospective wind-farm builders, however, the impacts might extend into the deeply personal; by revitalizing their local economy, they can create jobs and opportunities for the people who participate in it, which often end up being their neighbors and friends. With heavy impacts on all levels of the American economy – from national power supply to local industry rural - individuals and agencies cannot ignore the economic effects their construction of a wind farm would have, if they were to choose to construct one.

[3] Another important aspect to factor in not only the construction of wind farms, but in facets of human life, is the potential effect on human happiness and well-being. Wind turbines do serve as an innovative way of providing energy, but they are not without controversy. Nate Seltenrich writes in 2014 that while "reports have concluded turbines harmless" when "direct effects" were examined, "turbine noise...has been associated in some studies with...fatigue, sleeplessness, and irritability" (Source C). Wind Turbine farms, without a doubt, are massive in-your-face landmarks. They occupy huge parcels of land and tower over the ground unapologetically and flippantly, giant white spires of unsubtle energy production. A 2009 picture of giant turbine farm makes clear how some might consider the farms "ugly" or "an eyesore", which contribute to human antipathy toward the wind farms. For many Americans, wind turbines are nothing more than hideous towers causing sleeplessness and annoyance – and, assuming that agencies / individuals hoping to build such farms care about their reputation and public opinion, must consider the placement and size of their projects if they wish to construct them while

**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Question 1: Synthesis (2019)**  
**Sample Student Responses**

mininizing human annoyance. In the end, what matters most to a majority of everyday citizens is not energy renewability but comfort and joy. Fossil fuels provide people their electricity without them even having to consider where it comes from; this factor, when combined with oil/natural gas's relative affordability, has led to great amounts of resistance to the growth of wind energy. Popular political figures have even adopted this movement, including the President himself, who just earlier this month, made the unfounded claim that windmills cause cancer (after attempting to imitate the disruptive noise they make by saying, "Whee! Whee!" over and over). Trump's claim underscores the dismal perception of wind energy among a large share of the population. As such, for the sake of their own popularity / perception and the well-being of the communities in which they wish to build, those considering whether or not to construct wind farms must take their effects on human happiness and satisfaction into consideration.

**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Question 1: Synthesis (2019)**  
**Sample Student Responses**

**Sample A**

[1] According to a recent report on Climate change published by the United Nations, Earth's global climate temperature is expected to rise by 1.5°C in the coming decades and the effects can potentially be catastrophic unless real intervention is taken. Thus, it is imperative that nations more thoroughly examine clean energy sources without carbon emissions, such as wind energy. Agencies looking to establish wind farms should consider the geographic location of their potential wind farm and its vicinity to resident communities, in order to avoid stirring up more controversy in society's debate on how to settle an increasingly demanding appetite for energy.

[2] Primarily, agencies should consider the geographic location of a potential wind farm before actually establishing it. Wind farms occupy hundreds of acres of space and as Joshua Winchell's photograph illustrates, often require a large-scale, uniform, and isolated terrain (Source A). This is crucial for agencies to consider because building a wind farm in a location that does not meet these demands could inhibit the full capacity of energy output and require even more energy input to sustain, reducing the net benefits that the wind farm can have. Without a proper location, agencies building large-scale wind farms become more open and vulnerable to criticism which can stifle the overall progression of clean energy resources. Furthermore, agencies must take into account how productive their turbines will be. "Since wind speeds fluctuate" they can't "always run at 100 percent power" (Source B). Julia Layton goes on to mention that turbines can be "hazardous to birds and bats, and in hard-packed desert areas there is a risk of land erosion" (Source B). Factors such as average wind speeds and the local fauna must be considered so that potential wind farms are not inflicting harm on their environment. After all, what is the point in trying to save the planet if the process inflicts too much harm? Thus, with proper consideration to the terrain, climate, and local species in the overall geographic location, wind farms can be established in appropriate location without causing much harm or controversy.

[3] Secondly, agencies must consider any potential wind farm's vicinity to resident communities and those effects before establishing any large scale farms. While wind farms may not interfering with the Earth's climate, they certainly interfere with human sleep patterns. Nate Seltnerich of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences points out how "sleep interference gets worse the nearer residents are to turbines" which is detrimental because "when we lose a night's sleep, we become dysfunctional" (Seltnerich). If wind farms are built too close to resident communities, sleep within these communities becomes impaired. The more inconvenient this energy source is, the more controversy there is surrounding it, ultimately leaving people less accepting of this clean energy source. However, local resident concerns for wind turbines extends to their style as well. Troy A. Rule emphasized the "territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural backdrop" (Source E). This concern also extends to light pollution and "turbine safety lighting often required under federal aviation laws flashes across an otherwise pristine evening sky" (Source E). These residents concerns are crucial for agencies to address since the expansion of wind energy will be discouraged if it upsets the communities surrounding it. Like the harsh, glaring, white design of the wind turbines themselves, agencies must find a way to control their image by being selective in the places where farms are established. Overall, the vicinity to and effect of wind turbines on resident communities

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must be considered so that agencies can place their beneficial, clean, and safe turbines in places where they will be appreciated.

[4] In the ongoing, controversial debate surrounding wind farms, agencies looking to establish these farms should consider their geographic location and vicinity to and effect on resident communities. While there are many problems associated with wind energy, ultimately it is a legitimate and possible solution to one of the biggest climate catastrophies facing planet Earth.

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**Sample TT**

[1] The situation has been known for years, and still very little is being done: alternative power is the only way to reliably power the changing world. The draw of power coming from industry and private life is overwhelming current sources of non-renewable power, and with dwindling supplies of fossil fuels, it is merely a matter of time before coal and gas fuel plants are no longer in operation. So one viable alternative is wind power. But as with all things, there are pros and cons. The main factors for power companies to consider when building wind farms are environmental boon, aesthetic, and economic factors.

[2] The environmental benefits of using wind power are well-known and proven. Wind power is, as qualified by Source B, undeniably clean and renewable. From their production requiring very little in the way of dangerous materials to their lack of fuel, besides that which occurs naturally, wind power is by far one of the least environmentally impactful sources of power available. In addition, wind power by way of gearbox and advanced blade materials, has the highest percentage of energy retention. According to Source F, wind power retains 1,164% of the energy put into the system – meaning that it increases the energy converted from fuel (wind) to electricity 10 times! No other method of electricity production is even half that efficient. The efficiency and clean nature of wind power are important to consider, especially because they contribute back to power companies economically.

[3] Economically, wind power is both a boon and a bone to electric companies and other users. For consumers, wind power is very cheap, leading to lower bills than from any other source. Consumers also get an indirect reimbursement by way of taxes (Source D). In one Texan town, McCamey, tax revenue increased 30% from a wind farm being erected in the town. This helps to finance improvements to the town. But, there is no doubt that wind power is also hurting the power companies. Although, as renewable power goes, wind is incredibly cheap, it is still significantly more expensive than fossil fuels. So, while it is helping to cut down on emissions, it costs electric companies more than traditional fossil fuel plants. While the general economic trend is positive, there are some setbacks which must be overcome before wind power can take over as truly more effective than fossil fuels.

[4] Aesthetics may be the greatest setback for power companies. Although there may be significant economic and environmental benefit to wind power, people will always fight to preserve pure, unspoiled land. Unfortunately, not much can be done to improve the visual aesthetics of the turbines. White paint is the most common choice because it “[is] associated with cleanliness.” (Source E). But, this can make it stand out like a sore thumb, and make the gargantuan machines seem more out of place. The site can also not be altered because it affects generating capacity. Sound is almost worse of a concern because it interrupts personal productivity by interrupting people’s sleep patterns. One thing for power companies to consider is working with turbine manufacturing to make the machines less aesthetically impactful, so as to garner greater public support.

[5] As with most things, wind power has no easy answer. It is the responsibility of the companies building them to weigh the benefits and the consequences. But, by balancing economics, efficiency, and aesthetics, power companies can create a solution which balances human impact with environmental preservation.

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**Sample II**

[1] As humanity faces the crisis of global warming, we are beginning to feel the repercussions of our blatant disregard for the environment during our endless quest for economic and material gain. The sources of energy that drive society have been blamed for most environmental damage and destruction. In the face of this increasingly severe problem, humanity turns to green energy sources such as solar, hydro, and most notably wind power to continue to power society without harming the earth. Although some may argue that wind farms pose a threat to natural landscapes and the wildlife that inhabit them, the economic and environmental benefits of wind energy overwhelmingly outweigh these costs.

[2] Many critics of wind farms argue that the massive turbines disrupt the beauty of the natural landscape as well as the habitat of many local wildlife (Source E). However, wind turbines should be viewed as a beacon of human progress and increased harmony with the natural environment. In fact, these same critics concede that “commercial wind energy projects should be perceived as artistic creations” and that their white color may “convey a positive image” (Source E.) From the observations, we can see that wind turbines actually enhance the natural landscape rather than detract from it. In regards to concerns about wildlife losing their habitat or getting caught in the turbines rotating blades, wind energy causes less harm to wildlife than traditional forms of energy. For example, the burning of coal releases noxious fumes into the environment that causes the death of thousands of wild animals per year. Additionally, many have observed that birds such as West Texas quail “have little problem avoiding the slow moving turbine blades.” (Source D). By using wind energy, we are actually helping to enhance the natural landscape and protect its wildlife, especially in comparison to traditional forms of energy production.

[3] One of wind energy’s plethora of benefits is the financial and economic success communities enjoy as a result of its installation. For example, communities such as the small West Texas town of McCamey have communally declined due to their previous reliance on the oil industry. With the advent of wind power, residents note that the renewable energy form has “restored McCamey’s economy,” (Source D). The federal tax credits residents enjoy have not only added money to new pockets, but spurred modern development within the community. Additionally, residents no longer have to worry about purchasing land rights for oil rigs and risking the loss of their investments in order to maintain these rights. Furthermore, wind power is the most efficient form of energy, with 1,164% of energy retained from input compared to only 22% of coal. In addition to its efficiency, wind is also one of the least expensive forms of energy, requiring only a moderate amount of money to produce 1 MWH of electricity when compared to other sources. (Source F). Overall, wind energy helps to revitalize stagnant economies with an efficient and reliable source of both energy and income.

[4] In addition to the economic benefits, wind energy amongst the most environmentally friendly energy sources. Unlike coal, natural gas, nuclear, and petroleum based energy sources, “we are in no danger of running out of wind anytime soon.” (Source B). Moreover, wind energy releases zero harmful emissions such as CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxides that contribute to global warming and the adverse effects on Earth’s ecosystems. Additionally, some fumes emitted by traditional energy sources are even harmful to human health, making wind energy a better choice for not only the environment, but also the human race (Source B).



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[5] The economic and environmental benefits of wind power greatly outweigh the alleged damages to the natural landscape and wildlife. By continuing to develop wind energy, we can benefit our economies and environment at the same time. In fact, wind energy has the potential to generate far more than the 1% of electricity in the U.S. it does now (Source B.). By embracing wind energy, we can be sure that humanity will be blown towards a brighter future and better tomorrow.

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**Sample L**

[1] The increasing demand for energy is leading consumers to explore new energy options. Among these options are the controversial large-scale, commercial-grade wind farms. The most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm are the noise impacts, the alteration of landscapes, and the cost of the wind farms.

[2] Noise impacts of large wind farms are a concern for communities near these farms. “Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests a connection between turbines and...symptoms including nausea, vertigo, blurred vision, unsteady movement, and difficulty reading, remembering, and thinking.” (Source C). Evidence also suggests that turbines have sleep interference and that turbines can sound louder at night (Source C). These concerns that effect the health of members of communities should be taken into account. The counter-argument however is that wind turbines are harmless (Source C). Before a company decides to build a wind farm they should do research into studies that prove both points of view and consider conducting research themselves.

[3] Another impact that should be considered before creating a wind-farm is that turbines can alter the landscape. Turbines cannot be camouflaged or or made smaller, because this would effect the efficiency of the turbines. (Source E) It would also be very difficult to paint them colors that match the surroundings due to changes in seasons and colors (Source E). “turbines can impose significant costs by disrupting territorial views for local residents.” (Source E). The counter-argument to this is that wind turbines / farms can be depicted as work of art. (Source E). Windmills play a role in art and literature, such as in seventeenth-century Dutch paintings and Spanish literature, such as Don Quiote. Before installing a wind farm, agencies should look into the views of the communities that they are looking at and make decisions based on the opinions of the community.

[4] The last factor that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm is cost and efficiency. Wind power is more costly than coal or natural gas. It is important for an agency or individual to understand the investment that they are making. (Source F) Although it costs more, wind is one of the most efficient forms of energy (Source F). If an individual or agency is willing to invest upfront to accomplish a long term gain, than wind power is an option to consider.

[5] When deciding whether to establish a wind farm, agencies or individuals should consider the health impacts from the noise, the impact the turbines will have on the landscape’s appearance, and the cost and efficiency of wind turbines.

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**Sample D**

[1] The establishment of wind turbines and wind farms is a newly risen controversial topic in society. Wind turbines are a modern energy source, that are clean and reusable, but come with a price. Many argue that prices and few drawbacks out-way the benefits. There are many factors to consider when establishing a wind farm; including environment advantages, economics, and potential health issues.

[2] The first factor that should be considered is the environmental advantage. Wind farms produce an immense amount of electricity. Not to mention, wind farms are the most efficient source by over 500% when compared to fuel sources (Source F, Molla). In a world where our environment is no question deteriorating, wind farms efficiency could play an important factor in helping our conditions. In society today, consumers fall to coal, oil and natural gas for energy sources. These three sources combined account for 98% efficiency, compared to wired turbines 1.164%, out-weighing all other sources by a lot. Not to mention, wind energy is completely clean. It doesn't release any harmful gases into the air unlike coal (Source B, Layton). Wind turbines combine efficiency with cleanliness for the environment, producing mass amounts of electricity.

[3] Another factor that should be considered is economics. Wind turbines have saved industries financially in generous ways. A small town in Texas has relied on oil and gas producers to run their economy for years. However, a recent drop in production has been saved by wind turbines. As the country's supply of oil and other natural gases continues to decline, citizens are going to be forced to find other ways to get the energy needed. Wind farms are a simple solution to this problem, "bringing an economic incentive that oil and gas do not" (Source D, Brown). Without wind power, the town of McCamey and towns alike would struggle financially for years to come. In addition, wind farm prices are not that far off from coal and natural gas to produce electricity. The cost to produce 1 MWH of electricity costs \$66 for natural gas and \$95 for coal. Wind power is only \$2 more than that, coming in at \$97 per 1 MWH (Source F, Molla). Not to mention, wind is a much cleaner and even simpler source of energy. Wind farms are an economic advantage in more ways than one.

[4] A third factor to consider when establishing a wind farm are the overall drawbacks. Many cases of health issues have been reported along with complaints of landscape appearance. Cases of sleeping problems have been studied in a recent investigation, relating sleep interference becoming worse for those who live closer to the wind turbines (Source C, Seltenrich). This could become a serious problem if it continues to grow. Wind turbines may have been placed a great distance away from residents, losing their effectiveness. The turbines generates a lower frequency sound, which is more capable of travelling through walls and windows (Source C, Seltenrich) making sleep much more difficult with the constant disturbance to the ears. In addition, many residents are unhappy with the size of the turbines, interfering with their views. Many residents have grown a strong liking to their views and are unhappy about the 400 feel tall turbines, "disrupting territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an areas existing natural backdrop" (Source E, Rule). In this instance, residents are more concerned with their property and greatly loved views then the use of wind turbines. Agencies cannot leave out the drawbacks when considering to establish a wind farm, especially if it affects people directly.

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**Sample E**

[1] In today's society, electricity is everything. After a long day at work you go home, sit down and turn on the TV. Did you ever think where your electricity is coming from? Many states and people across the US are converting to use windmills as their energy source. Some factors you should consider before converting to that source of energy is, wind power is clean and renewable, their appearance, and the cost it will be. These factors can determine whether you establish a wind farm.

[2] First of all, the source to power the wind farms are wind. These "big fans" are powered by the flow of the wind in our atmosphere. "Wind power is clean, and it's renewable" (Layton). There is always wind in our atmosphere, especially the higher you are, and the wind is clean. The wind isn't manufactured in a factory then released into the air, it is natural. "It doesn't release harmful gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere the way coal does (Layton). Energy sources such as nuclear power plants use harmful gases which are released into the atmosphere. The usage of these turbines can be good for the environment and use natural resources as well.

[3] Secondly, the size and appearance of the wind farms can be a factor as well. "Modern utility-scale wind turbines commonly exceed 400 feet in height" (Rule). These turbines will most likely be larger than the buildings around them. This can factor in because residents may have grown attached to the views... "it is often impossible to successfully camouflage turbines with paint such that they blend in with their surrounding" (Rule). It is difficult to disguise the turbines with their landscapes because the world is always changing. Many suggest to make them colorful and vibrant, but they would still be as distracting and not blend with the landscape. The appearance of the windfarms may alter the landscape and its appearance.

[4] Lastly, the cost of the turbines can be good and bad. "A typical large wind turbine can generate enough power to generate 600 households" (Layton). One wind turbine could create enough power to generate 600 houses. Imagine the money that would be saved from building hundreds, in a wind farm. In 2014, Rani Molia, has a blog which showed that the most efficient energy input retained when converting fuel to electricity was wind. It also shows that wind is the fourth lowest, at \$97, to produce 1 MWH of electricity. Using these facts a wind farm is one of the best ways to produce energy based on cost.

[5] In conclusion, windfarms are a good device used to produce energy. There are good factors such as, wind is clean and renewable, as well as the cost. There are also bad factors such as the appearance and size that they are. These turbines are useful and can be used all over the world.

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**Sample G**

[1] Throughout the years society has always been developing new ways to obtain energy effectively and also efficiently. As for the development of the windmill there are many important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. These most important factors include, wind fluctuation, effects the environment.

[2] To start off, when dealing with energy resources for example like coal, it is a very controlled resource that can be maintained effectively. But as for wind, it is not the same case, in most cases wind can become very unpredictable and making it a very unreliable resource to utilize. One example in Source B states, "wind turbines can't always run at 100 percent power like many of the types of power plants, since wind speeds fluctuate." And Because of this factor that which develops and unreliable resource wind power is the lowest electricity generation in the United States.

[3] One other important factor that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm are the many effects that occur to the environment. Wind farms can alter landscapes appearance "...turbines can impose significant costs by disrupting territorial views for residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural back drop." (Source E). This is factor that an individual or agency should consider when establishing wind farms. Another effect that occur to environment is the disruption and the harm that it causes to the environment. (Source B) states, "wind turbines can be noisy if you live close to a wind plant, they can be hazardous to birds and bats, and in a hard-packed desert there is a risk of land erosion."

[4] In conclusion, the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm are wind fluctuation, effects on the environment and the negative impact on wildlife.

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**Sample HH**

[1] The first wind turbine was put in place in 2001. Today, there are over 800 wind turbines in America. But, is this source of energy a good way to go? Wind turbines tend to have many harmful affects, and do more harm than good.

[2] These turbines use wind as a source of energy. Although this is a “clean” and “renewable” way to generate electricity, as stated in Source B, it also has a risk of land erosion and takes away possible wildlife habitats. In areas where the dirt or sand is packed tight, digging it up to install these turbines can loosen the surface and cause the land to erode. As far as habitats go, as seen in Source A (photo) there are miles and miles of wind turbines taking up land that could be used by our wildlife creatures.

[3] Exceeding “400 feet in height”, as stated in source E, these turbines can get in the way of our atmospheric animals. Because they are so tall, “they can be hazardous to birds and bats,” as explained in Source B because they could fly right into the blades which can cause severe injuries or even death.

[4] Not only can the wind turbines cause harm to the animals, but it can also cause harm to humans. Source C outlines that “anecdotal evidence strongly suggests a connection between turbines and a constellation of symptoms including nausea, vertigo, blurred vision, unsteady movement, and difficulty reading, remembering, and thinking.” As you can see, these turbines cause health problems to the people around them. The aerodynamic noise produced by air moving around the spinning blades” causes a frequency which causes these symptoms as well as the “physiology of the inner ear.” If these wind turbines can affect a humans health so much, is it really worth keeping?

[5] To conclude, wind turbines may sound great at first, but if you take a closer look at what is ahead, you will see the different negative outcomes.



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**Sample Student Responses**

**Sample H**

[1] The use of wind turbines for power has many benefits and also many potential disadvantages. All of these things should be considered when establishing a wind farm.

[2] Source F shows two graphs. One graph shows different ways energy is produced and which is most efficient. The other graph shows the cost efficiency of each type of energy. The first graph shows wind energy as being the most efficient by being more than double of the other types. The second graph shows that wind energy is also in the top 4 least expensive types of energy to produce as well.

[3] Source B talks about how wind energy is clean and renewable. It doesn't release harmful gases, and we can't run out of wind. This source also talks about some of the drawbacks of wind energy. Since wind speeds aren't constant, they don't always run. Wind turbines can also be a danger to birds and bats.

[4] Source C mainly talks about noise being a big drawback people hear wind turbines may have trouble sleeping. The noise doesn't just affect people right next to the turbines. Since the turbines are so tall, the noise affect people anywhere near them.

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**Sample LL**  
**6/6 Points (A1 – B4 – C1)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a clear thesis that responds to the prompt and takes a position on the factors that individuals/agencies “ought to ponder.” The thesis in this instance is set apart from the rest of the essay as its own paragraph. The response identifies economics and comfort/quality of life as “the two most important considerations.”

**Row B: 4/4**

The response earned four points for Row B because it provides evidence from at least three sources and develops commentary that is consistent and cohesive throughout. A line of reasoning develops that focuses on the positive economic aspects of windfarms while acknowledging that individuals/agencies must also consider “the effects on human happiness and satisfaction.” The second paragraph provides a supporting claim focused on economic considerations and integrates appropriate details from Source F to provide cost analysis. Paragraph two also examines “human costs” as part of the economic analysis and connects wind power to local economies. The citation from Source D about McCamey, Texas is highly sophisticated, focusing on how windfarm development can stop “economic insecurity” and the “diminished quality of life” that face many small towns. In both cases, the response explicitly and thoughtfully links to the larger argument that an individual or agency “cannot ignore the economic effects” of creating windfarms. The third paragraph is similarly well-structured and focuses on how individuals/agencies must consider wind farms “placement and size” to support “human happiness and well-being.” The response cites Source A and C to offer a clear concession that wind turbines “occupy huge parcels of land” and potentially cause “sleeplessness.” The response challenges these complaints and weighs them against the values associated with renewable energy sources, helping to further solidify the line of reasoning that “minimizing human annoyance” is key to creating support for windfarms.

**Row C: 1/1**

This response earned a point for Row C because it demonstrates a nuanced understanding of argumentation. The response employs refutation successfully by examining information from Source A and C, which points to the negative aesthetic and physical impacts of wind farms. The response acknowledges these points, but in weighing them against economic considerations, concludes that these factors aren’t as significant as others. This response makes several good rhetorical choices—from the directness of the thesis to the structure of the essay—making the writing clear and accessible. This response contains some strong stylistic moves (i.e. Chinese proverb reference) that show the writer’s control of, and fluency with, language.

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**Sample A**

**6/6 Points (A1 – B4 – C1)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a clear thesis on the factors that should be considered with wind farms and then identifies those factors: “Agencies looking to establish wind farms should consider the geographic location of their potential wind farm and its vicinity to resident communities, in order to avoid stirring up more controversy in society’s debate on how to settle an increasingly demanding appetite for energy.”

**Row B: 4/4**

The response earned four points for Row B because it includes evidence from at least three sources that is clearly related to a line of reasoning. Each body paragraph supports a line of reasoning that is explicitly stated in the conclusion: “While there are many problems associated with wind energy, ultimately it is a legitimate and possible solution to one of the biggest climate catastrophes facing planet Earth.” Evidence is carefully and thoughtfully integrated throughout the response and commentary exists cohesively between source citation. The supporting argument in paragraph two focuses on considering geographical locations of wind farms to ensure they are appropriate. The response draws on information from Sources A and B to argue that if the terrain is not ideal, wind energy won’t reach its potential. The commentary is insightful and focused as it explicitly points out that without such considerations “agencies building large-scale wind farms become more open and vulnerable to criticism which can stifle the overall progression of clean energy resources.” The response also acknowledges the need to consider the impact wind farms have on local animals implying that it is important to identify an “appropriate location” for this type of endeavor. The writer’s voice and ideas are not supplanted by source materials. The commentary connects to the response’s argument that public image and perception is an important factor to consider, such as in paragraph three: “Like the harsh, glaring, white design of the wind turbines themselves, agencies must find a way to control their image by being selective in the places where farms are established.”

**Row C: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row C because it demonstrates sophistication of thought in several different areas. First, the response explores the complexities across the sources and puts them into conversation with one another. An example of this conversation exists in the third body paragraph, when the response cites Source C to argue that agencies must consider “impaired” sleep within communities close to wind turbines. The response then turns to Source E to argue that sleep is not the only consideration but that, “local residents concerns for wind turbines extends to their style as well.” This extension of ideas suggests an understanding that source can build upon one another to craft a more meaningful argument. Finally, the response employs a style that is persuasive throughout: “After all, what is the point in trying to save the planet if the process inflicts too much harm?”

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**Sample TT**  
**5/6 Points (A1 – B4 – C0)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it establishes a thesis in the last sentence of the first paragraph that defines the primary “factors for power companies to consider when building wind farms” and identifies these as “environmental boon, aesthetic, and economic factors.”

**Row B: 4/4**

The response earned four points for Row B because it employs at least three sources to fulfill the organizational plan established in the thesis. The response has a line of reasoning that is most clearly relayed in the final paragraph where the student argues, “By balancing economics, efficiency, and aesthetics, power companies can create a solution which balances human impact with environmental preservation.” In paragraph two, the student uses appropriate information from sources and comments on the source to connect them back to the thesis as we see in this passage: “According to Source F, wind power retains 1,164% of the energy put into the system--meaning that it increases the energy converted from fuel (wind) to electricity 10 times! No other method of electricity production is even half that efficient.” The response explains the information provided in the source and shows how it fulfills the promise of the paragraph, in this case environmental benefits. Paragraph three shows similar analysis by the writer: “Although, as renewable power goes, wind is incredibly cheap, it is still significantly more expensive than fossil fuels.” The commentary helps to group the evidence and supports the larger line of reasoning. This line of reasoning is explicit in the following from paragraph four: “One thing for power companies to consider is working with turbine manufacturing to make the machines less aesthetically impactful, so as to garner greater public support.”

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row C. The response is not especially sophisticated in content or form but rather tends toward generalizations and statements that are not effective. In paragraph one, the response claims that little is being done to address environmental concerns and that “it is merely a matter of time before coal and gas plants are no longer in operation.” The response consistently overstates its position by using sentences that tend toward equivocation: “As with most things, wind power has no easy answer. It is the responsibility of the companies building them to weigh the benefits and consequences.” In both cases, the response misses the opportunity to present a more specific and balanced argument about what individuals and companies should consider and prioritize.

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**Sample II**

**5/6 Points (A1 – B3 – C1)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a defensible thesis related to the factors that should be considered in establishing a wind farm. This thesis takes a positive stance on wind energy, which is not the task of the prompt; however, in explaining the position, the response notes the factors that should be considered: in this case, economic and environmental benefits that outweigh the cost of their threat to natural landscapes and the environment. In doing so, the response creates a defensible thesis.

**Row B: 3/4**

This response earned three points for Row B because it establishes a line of reasoning that considers several reasonable factors that should be considered prior to the construction of wind farms. The response ultimately assigns comparative value to them in order to reach the conclusion that the benefits of wind energy outweigh the costs. To support this reasoning, the response integrates evidence from a three or more of the sources. Even though the commentary is limited, the thesis is well-supported by the source material. The second paragraph addresses the claim that the windmills are unattractive and unnatural by suggesting that some might see them as a way to “enhance the natural landscape rather than detracting from it.” The response uses Source D to suggest wind farms aren’t nearly as bad as other power sources for the environment or animals. The response did not earn all four points for Row B because while there is some commentary in the body paragraphs, it relies on sources with minimal framing or contextualization. Paragraph three, for example, has one sentence of commentary at the end of a long paragraph that uses many sources. While the argument that “wind energy helps to revitalize stagnant economies with an efficient and reliable source of both energy and income” is thoughtful, it stops short of fully analyzing why such a consideration is of importance for local economies. Similarly, paragraph four and five rely heavily on source material and leave little room for deeper analysis. This response could have been improved if the writer had more consistently and fully explained the sources or made connections and comments that tied back into the larger argument.

**Row C: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row C because it employs a vivid and persuasive style throughout. The student frames the argument thoughtfully in the introduction by explicitly arguing that “we are beginning to feel the repercussions of our blatant disregard for the environment during our endless question for economic and material gain.” Persuasive and vivid language is also apparent in the conclusion: “By embracing wind energy, we can be sure that humanity will be blown towards a brighter future and better tomorrow.” This clever use of language plays on the topic of prompt and recognizes the need to engage the audience in considering the “economic and environmental benefits” for wind farm development.

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**Sample L**

**4/6 Points (A1 – B3 – C0)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a defensible thesis on noise, landscape, and cost, all important factors to consider when developing “commercial-grade wind farms.”

**Row B: 3/4**

The response earned three points for Row B. Each paragraph identifies a supporting claim first cited in the thesis that include “noise,” “alter[ing] the landscape,” and “cost and efficiency.” These categories establish a line of reasoning. This response draws on and cites materials from Sources C, E, and F that are appropriate to support the claims, but it only partially develops those citations. The response provides some analysis such as requiring that a company “consider conducting research” about the impact of windfarms on individuals. However, such commentary often appears at the end of body paragraphs instead of cohesively throughout the integration of evidence and stops short of providing the depth of analysis necessary for a higher score.

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row C. This response is organized in a simple and straightforward manner. The response overly relies on source material. While the student nods to a counterargument in the second paragraph, “that wind turbines are harmless (Source C),” this response does not actually formulate or respond to a counterargument in a way that adds to the content or form of the paper. The mere statement of a counterargument is not enough to merit a sophistication point.



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**Sample D**

**4/6 Points (A1 – B3 – C0)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a defensible thesis that responds to the prompt. While incorrect grammatically, this thesis lists three factors to consider: “environmental advantages, economics, and health issues.”

**Row B: 3/4**

The response earned three points for Row B because it cites three or more sources and develops the three points listed in the thesis sentence within the body paragraphs. In doing so, the response establishes a line of reasoning that focuses on the benefits of wind farms while also acknowledging some potential “drawbacks.” Each of the body paragraphs cites at least two sources that are appropriate for the claims being made in the corresponding paragraph. While the response includes some commentary, it is decidedly limited and sometimes fails to support key claims fully. For example, in paragraph three: “Wind farms are an economic advantage in more ways than one.” The response connects the evidence from sources back to the thesis, but it adds little insight or substance in the commentary. The response ends by urging agencies to consider the drawbacks in addition to the benefits of wind farming, which connects to the purpose of the prompt.

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row C. While organized, the response is not especially vivid or nuanced. Statements such as, “Wind turbines combine efficiency with cleanliness for the environment” and “Wind farms are an economic advantage in more ways than one” are clear examples of how the response does not demonstrate sophistication of thought.

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**Sample E**

**3/6 Points (A1 – B2 – C0)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a defensible thesis that responds to the prompt. While incorrect grammatically, this thesis presents a defensible position: “Some factors you should consider before converting to that source of energy is, wind power is clean and renewable, their appearance, and the cost it will be.” Even without parallel structure in the list, the presence of a thesis is clear.

**Row B: 2/4**

The response earned two points for Row B because it does not establish a clear line of reasoning. Instead, the body paragraphs operate independently from one another. Each of the body paragraphs relies heavily on cited sources A, B, and F to make points about the environment, appearance, and cost. The response is difficult to follow and often merely restates or oversimplifies the evidence of the source material. The following example from the second body paragraph highlights the limited commentary that exists: “The wind isn’t manufactured in a factory then released into the air, it is natural.” While this response makes some moves to establish paragraphs to support the thesis, most of the content is delivered through the source material without substantive commentary. The fourth paragraph equivocates on the cost of wind energy: “the cost of the turbines can be good and bad.”

**Row C: 0/1**

This response did not earn a point for Row C because it uses simplistic language, which borders on undermining meaning. It does not demonstrate sophistication of ideas, structure, style, or language.

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**Sample G**

**2/6 Points (A1 – B1 – C0)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a thesis that responds to the prompt: “As for the development of the windmill there are many important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. These most important factors include, wind fluctuation, effects the environment.” While incorrect grammatically, this two-sentence thesis identifies factors individuals or agencies should consider before establishing a wind farm: wind fluctuation and environmental effects.

**Row B: 1/4**

The response earned one point for Row B because it is limited in its analysis and provides evidence from only two sources. Description of the sources in both body paragraphs substitutes for the writer’s ideas and there is almost no existing commentary within the response. What commentary does exist, such as the following example from paragraph two, is occasionally incoherent: “And Because of this factor that which develops and unreliable resource wind power is the lowest electricity generation in the United States.”

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row C. The ideas in this response are not complicated, and the language lacks precision. It is minimalistic in its development and over relies on quoted material for content.

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**Sample HH**

**2/6 Points (A0 – B2 – C0)**

**Row A: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row A. While it makes an argument about the topic of wind energy, it does not offer an argument about anything that agencies or individuals should consider in relation to wind farming. While there is an overarching argument, “Wind turbines tend to have many harmful affects, and do more harm than good,” it does not earn the point because it does not respond to the task of the prompt.

**Row B: 2/4**

The response earned two points for Row B. While the body paragraphs cite sources B, E, and C, the sources are used as a substitute for the writer’s ideas. The response only includes simplistic and redundant commentary about the sources that connects it back to the topic as is seen in paragraph four: “As you can see, these turbines cause health problems to the people around them.” This is simplistic analysis. Even so, there is some semblance of paragraph development and transitions in paragraph four: “Not only can the wind turbines cause harm to animals, but it can also cause harm to humans.” The one sentence conclusion is another example of the response making moves that resemble an essay but without much substance or development.

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point in Row C because it does not demonstrate sophistication of thought.

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**Sample H**

**1/6 Points (A0 – B1 – C0)**

**Row A: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point for Row A because the introduction begins with an equivocation—“The use of wind turbines for power has many benefits and also many potential disadvantages” and ends with a weak statement: “All of these things should be considered when establishing a wind farm.” This response does not define any of the alleged strengths or weaknesses, nor does it establish any sense of how these factors need to be weighed in order to stage an argument.

**Row B: 1/4**

This response earned one point for Row B. Each of the body paragraphs in this response uses a single source, which demonstrates a rudimentary understanding of paragraph development. In each instance, the paragraph begins by summarizing or paraphrasing a source, but there is little to no commentary or explanation about how the sources would support the thesis. The commentary provided is especially simplistic and contradictory, as in the following example: “The noise doesn’t just affect people right next to the turbines. Since the turbines are so tall, the noise affect people anywhere near them.”

**Row C: 0/1**

The response did not earn a point in Row C because it does not demonstrate sophistication of thought.

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TT	1	4	0
II	1	3	1
L	1	3	0
D	1	3	0
E	1	2	0
G	1	1	0
HH	0	2	0
H	0	1	0