



# **English I**

## **Expository Scoring Guide**

**March 2015**

# English I

## Expository Prompt

Read the following quotation.

Right actions for the future are the best apologies for wrong ones in the past.

—Tryon Edwards

Sometimes changing your behavior is the only way to make up for a past mistake. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining how actions can be more powerful than words.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

## **Score Point 1**

**The essay represents a very limited writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer’s response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

Right actions for the future  
are the best apologies  
for wrong ones in the  
past. It means if  
you did wrong things in  
the past you can apolo-  
gize by doing the right  
in the future. Like if you do  
the right thing the wrong thing  
is not the wrong thing. If you  
destroyed someone's party you  
can later on make a party for  
them. as to apologize for them.  
You can make up the wrong  
things in the past but this time  
you can do them in the future  
you can apologize by doing the  
things in the future. And  
live a good life where you do  
the right things and don't  
do the wrong thing because it  
will affect you more.

**Score Point 1**

In this very limited essay, the writer's response to the prompt is vague and confused. She does not provide a thesis; instead, she attempts to explain or reword the Tyron Edwards quotation in various ways throughout the essay. However, the writing is unclear, repetitive, and difficult to follow. The writer offers a brief example of someone who can make up for ruining a party by throwing another party, but the language used in this example is vague and ineffective. Because the writer's focus is on doing the right thing to make up for past wrongs rather than on how actions can be more powerful than words, the essay is not responsive to the specific demands of the prompt.

Actions are more powerful than words because anyone can say that they aren't afraid of anything but they never prove it by trying things that normally people would do. If you been going out with someone for a long time and one day you notice you got cheated on then the person says they are sorry and they will never do it ever again they can say that but they need to act on what they truly mean so action is alot more powerful than words because words could be lies.

**Score Point 1**

In this very limited writing performance, the writer provides the thesis that “action is a lot more powerful than words because words could be lies.” He attempts to support this thesis with two unconnected examples. The first example (people saying they’re unafraid but never proving it) is vague and not explicitly connected to the idea that words can be lies. The second example (finding out your significant other has been cheating on you) is insufficiently developed. In addition, the writer’s uncontrolled sentences and lack of appropriate punctuation between sentences are serious problems, especially at the high school level, since they create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and significantly weaken the essay.

Actions can be more powerful than words?  
How so you may ask? Have you heard a similar saying "Action's speak louder than words".  
In high school people don't notice these things as much. Little that they know people experience these things. You see this happen more often with girls than with boys. I know this from experience. I have had a time when I expressed my self in a wrong way and it almost got me into trouble. A lot of people notice these type of things, even people you don't know.  
The way actions speak louder on can be more powerful than words is by the way you present your self or express your self. A other saying "A picture can speak 1000 words with out you even knowing it". Well the words can be positive or negative. What matter's is how its show and xpressed just like our faces.  
Me from experience, have changed my ways in how I expressed my self. Why so? Because I know now that, my actions can get me introuble with out my intention's and with out me even knowing it.

**Score Point 1**

The writer's approach to the topic is confused. Although she asserts in several places that actions are more powerful than words, she uses personal examples that seem to support the opposite idea (words are more powerful than actions). For example, the writer states, "I have had a time when I expressed myself in a wrong way and it almost got me into trouble." In this sentence, it is unclear whether the writer's use of the word "expressed" means "revealed in words" or "revealed by actions." Because no additional explanatory information is included, it is not clear what point the writer is trying to make or what the ideas in the essay are meant to support. Uncontrolled sentences further contribute to the lack of clarity. The result is an essay that is insubstantial and ineffective.

Actions can be more powerful than words because the way you act shows more affection than words. The way you express things are by showing people, which are actions. The quote when people say "Actions speak louder than words" is similar to it. By showing people what you mean they can understand you better.

Although people don't express how they feel by using actions some people understand for example, when people say "They can show you better than they could tell you" is a quote that people use. Showing action is more noticeable than words.

As Tryon Edwards said "Right actions for the future are best apologies for wrong ones in the past."

### Score Point 1

In this very limited performance, the writer asserts that actions can be more powerful than words. However, he fails to provide any appropriate support for this idea. Instead, he lists a series of quotations that are similar to the quotation in the prompt and intersperses these quotations with repetitive explanations of what they mean. This random and repetitive presentation of ideas makes the essay lack direction and coherence. Limited word choice and uncontrolled sentences further impede the clarity of the writing. These problems make it difficult to follow the writer's train of thought or understand what he is trying to say.

## **Score Point 2**

**The essay represents a basic writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's thesis statement is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

"Actions speak louder than words." This quote pretty much explains it. In my opinion actions hurt a lot worse than words. The hurt also stays with you. Sometimes the only thing you can do is apologize.

Any action you do such as fighting or bullying or even as simple as spilling someone's drink or throwing something at someone, any little action can hurt someone. I know it sounds kind of stupid but it's true. It doesn't matter what the action was the hurt will stay with that person. Like I said before sometimes all you can do is apologize. You might even have to change your behavior. That may sound crazy but it's also true. "Treat others the way you want to be treated." That's my favorite quote because it's true, you wouldn't want someone being mean to you so don't be mean to them. I for one hate to see people hurt, I happen to care a lot for people. So just take that into consideration before being mean to someone or making the wrong action. Also always remember "Actions speak louder than words."

**Score Point 2**

In this basic writing performance, the writer attempts to explain that actions hurt more than words because the hurt caused by actions "stays with you." She explains that fighting, bullying, spilling someone's drink, or throwing something at someone are all actions that can hurt but that a person can make up for these actions by apologizing, changing behavior, and not being mean. While all these examples are appropriate, they are only partially presented, causing the overall level of development to be superficial. In addition, the flow of ideas is not always smooth due to some wordiness and repetition (I know it sounds kind of stupid but it's true; That may sound crazy but it's also true). However, despite these minor disruptions, the progression of ideas from sentence to sentence is logical.

Actions do speak louder than words because some one could say that they run a forty yard dash in 4.2 seconds, but actually runs a 4.4 second forty yard dash.

For example, people on YouTube were saying that the world was going to end in 2012 due to a Mayan calendar. When the year 2012 came the only thing that happened was that global warming got a little worse. At home I tell my older brother that I'm my mom's favorite, but then she says that she doesn't have a favorite. When Muhammad Ali said that he was going to be the heavy weight champion of the world not a soul believed, so he worked hard and held eleven heavy weight champion titles.

In conclusion talk is always going to be cheap. Some people are sceptics until action is taken on your word. All in all actions are stronger than words in every situation.

### Score Point 2

In this essay, the conclusion functions as the clearest, most explicit thesis statement. The writer provides a number of examples—running a 40-yard dash, the Mayan Calendar, being Mom's favorite, and Muhammad Ali—to support the thesis. However, the first three examples only partially support the thesis; while they show instances when someone's words prove to be untrue, they are not clearly connected to the idea that people are going to be skeptical of you until you prove your words are true through your actions. Only the Mohammad Ali example provides direct support for the entire thesis statement. In addition, the writer's presentation of these examples creates other problems. First, these examples are related to the topic but not to each other. The absence of meaningful connections between them weakens the flow of the essay and makes the writing "jumpy." Second, because the examples remain in separate clusters, the writer is unable to "build" any depth into his explanation. For these reasons, this essay represents a basic writing performance.

"Yes I would love to marry you", Rachell said. Rachell has been waiting on this day forever from her boyfriend Jack. Everytime she asked he always said someday. His action spoke louder than his words. Words are just words, actions proves alot more. Actions can be more powerful than words.

Have you ever heard that old saying, sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. Words can only go so far, sometimes people need to see it to believe it. For example, a person can tell someone they love them, but their actions are saying something different. When people take action it shows that you are trustworthy and can be honest. This is why actions are more powerful than words.

In result, people want more than just talk, they want somebody to show them and prove to them that your about taking action. That's why is more powerful than words.

### Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer states that "words are just words, actions proves alot more." She begins the essay with an example of a boyfriend proposing in order to "prove" his love through his actions. While this example is appropriate, the writer's attempts to explain it in paragraph two are both general and partial (sometimes people need to see it to believe it; a person can tell someone they love them, but their actions are saying something different). In fact, the writer repeats the thesis statement throughout the essay, which weakens the progression by disrupting the sentence-to-sentence movement. Overall, the writer demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

What you say can be different from what you do. Actions can be more powerful than words because anyone can say that they will do something but never actually do it.

Almost everyone has made a promise before, but how many people have kept their promise? Just because someone says they'll do something does not mean that they will do it. If someone follows through with what they said, their action will be what was important. For example, in the Hunger Games, Katniss and Peeta promised each other that they will both eat the poisoned berry at the same time so they wouldn't have to kill each other. When they counted to 3, they both put the berry in their mouth like they said they would, even though they didn't end up dying.

Everyone can say that they will do something and never do it, which is why actions speak louder than words.

**Score Point 2**

In this basic writing performance, the writer believes that “actions can be more powerful than words because anyone can say that they will do something but never actually do it.” To support the thesis, he uses the example of Katniss and Peeta from *The Hunger Games*. However, this example is only partially presented because the writer omits key information that is necessary for the reader to understand how this example is relevant. He states that “they promised each other that they will both eat the poisoned berry at the same time so they wouldn't have to kill each other” and that “they put the berry in their mouth like they said they would.” The reader can infer that the characters did not eat the poisoned berry because they “didn't end up dying,” but he or she does not understand what actually happened. Because there is a gap in the explanation, the example provides only minimal support for the thesis statement.

## **Score Point 3**

**The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. Most ideas are related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- The writer’s progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

### Development of Ideas

- The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer’s response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- The writer’s word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

Whether it's realized or not, everything in the world is an example, from people to businesses. You may not realize it, but every little thing you do is an example to somebody out there. We learn with both our ears and eyes, but seeing a good example is more influential than just hearing somebody talk about one. A wonderful example of this is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King was a African-American who led the black civil rights movement. Not only did he talk the talk, he walked the walk as well. We've all heard his speech, "I Have A Dream" but he was much more than just his empowering speeches. He believed in civil disobedience or nonviolent protest. Though ridiculed for his color and his beliefs he took the stand for others who were too scared. By doing this he eventually got what he was fighting for, equal rights.

Even though he was fighting for a hard thing in which he was ridiculed daily for what he believed, his stance never wavered. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a truly influential man who lead by example.

### Score Point 3

The writer presents the clear thesis that “we learn with both our ears and eyes, but seeing a good example is more influential than just hearing somebody talk about one.” She focuses the development of her thesis on the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as someone who did not just talk about equal rights but “walked the walk” by leading the Civil Rights Movement. Appropriate details add some substance to the development by highlighting King’s actions rather than his words (He believed in civil disobedience or nonviolent protest; he took the stand for others who were too scared). The progression of ideas is controlled, and the narrow focus strengthens the coherence of the essay. In addition, the writer establishes an appropriate expository tone and has a good control of sentences and command of conventions.

Actions speak louder than words. It's a phrase everyone has heard of. Unlike a lot of sayings, this phrase is true in every little possible way, however, a countless number of people don't realize this. The fact is, actions are much more powerful than words than what we were originally led on to in both a positive and negative form.

There are many ways to show that actions are more powerful than words. For instance, one could use positive actions. Positive actions such as walking someone home can have a giant impact on someone's life. When someone helps another when he/she drops an item, it shows that the person is cared for and that they are not alone. When one gives another a hug in a time of grief or despair, it can show that the person is loved far beyond the limitations of words. However, actions can be stronger than words in a negative sense, too. Say someone is being helplessly pushed around back and forth in between two guys; how would he feel afterwards? He would most likely feel weak, hopeless, unwanted, unliked, maybe even hated. If the two guys said that the boy was weak, hopeless, unwanted and/or unliked, the boy can shrug it off, unlike the physical actions. The aftereffects of the pushing will be far more severe because the thoughts were his own therefore it will sink into his mind faster and each time he thinks of it, it will be more believable.

Actions truly do speak louder than words in both positive, negative, and in any way possible. So the next time you see someone who is being negatively influenced, go over there and cancel out the negative with something positive.

### Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer explores the nuances of the prompt by presenting the thesis that actions can be more powerful than words in both positive and negative ways. This is an acceptable approach in expository writing. He uses a compare/contrast organizational strategy to develop the essay. In the first part of paragraph two, the writer provides several specific examples of positive actions but does not develop an explanation of how these actions are, in fact, more powerful than words. However, in the second half of the paragraph, the writer focuses on a single hypothetical example of someone being pushed around. The description not only of the actions themselves but of their aftereffects on the person being pushed reflects some thoughtfulness. In addition, the writer's use of a meaningful transition (However, actions can be stronger than words in a negative sense too) in the middle of the body paragraph helps the writer build meaning. Overall, the writer demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Actions speak louder than words, because sometimes saying a simple "sorry" doesn't fix anything. Sometimes changing your behavior is the only way to make up for a past mistake.

For example, it was my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, and my parents went all out for my birthday party. There was this huge cake that my parents bought, and it looked delicious! I never got to find out if it tasted as good as it looked because my friend decided to play a prank which resulted in the cake being tossed into bits everywhere. As you can imagine, I was really upset. Afterwards, she felt bad and kept on saying sorry, but I was still mad at her. She went home and made a cake that was even bigger and more grand than the one she destroyed at my birthday party. The next day, she came to my house and gave the cake to me. The gesture was so thoughtful and sweet. Now, we're like two peas in a pod. If she had just said "sorry" and not cared after that to do something, we probably wouldn't be friends. But the fact that she struggled so much and went through all that trouble showed she really cared about our friendship enough to do something about it.

### Score Point 3

The writer of this satisfactory essay presents the thesis that “actions speak louder than words, because sometimes saying a simple ‘sorry’ doesn’t fix anything.” She uses a concise and effective personal anecdote to develop the idea that a demonstration of remorse is more meaningful than a verbal apology. This anecdote is an appropriate organizational strategy because the writer uses it to explain rather than to tell a story. The specific details support her thesis and add some substance to the essay by showing how the friend replaced the destroyed cake in order to prove that her remorse was sincere. The writer’s acknowledgement that their relationship might have changed if the friend had not “cared enough to do something about it” reflects some thoughtfulness. The movement from sentence to sentence is generally controlled, and the word choice is clear and specific. In addition, the writer’s narrow focus contributes to the unity and coherence of the essay.

Being kind to someone after you have wronged them can mean a lot more than just saying "I'm sorry". When you actually carry out the apology and show them you really are sorry, that can lead to a better relationship in the future.

Actions mean more than words in many situations. A lot of times when someone is upset, being there for them means more than trying to comfort them with words. Most people don't really want to talk about why they are even upset, so it is nice for them to have someone there to hug them if they need it or to just sit with them.

We all have a best friend who means the world to us, and a lot of times when they are upset, we have no idea what to say to them. So just bringing them their favorite food or ice cream to help them get their mind off of things is what we do to comfort them. In the long run, that friend will remember that you did that for them, not that you didn't really have something to say to them to make them happy.

Actions are more memorable than words. Which is why we definitely should be careful with what we do to someone. Being kind, and a good person is easier to do than being mean anyways. Show someone you really care, don't just say it.

### Score Point 3

In the last paragraph of this satisfactory essay, the writer establishes the clear thesis that actions are more memorable than words because showing someone you care is better than simply saying it. Although the introductory paragraph is only weakly linked to the thesis, the two body paragraphs are well connected and strengthen the coherence of the explanation. The writer supports the thesis in paragraph two by discussing in global terms how a person's presence and actions can be more comforting than words to someone who is upset. In paragraph three, the writer links this idea to the concrete example of comforting a best friend through actions rather than words. The essay overall reflects some thoughtfulness and a good understanding of the expository writing task.

## **Score Point 4**

**The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.**

### Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. All ideas are strongly related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.

### Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

Actions speak louder than words. When compared to words, actions act as a tree, while the words are merely leaves on the tree. Action proves the will to accomplish something when words fail to do so.

The action of Helen Keller acted as a tree, something important and fundamental. Helen Keller was born with a near fatal disease which caused her to lose both her hearing and vision, leaving her with no way to communicate with the world. However, her lack of words did not stop her from accomplishing something miraculous. Despite being both blind and deaf, Keller's actions proved that she was extraordinary. One summer, with the help of a tutor, she learned over 600 words. She later went on to be the first blind-deaf woman to complete a college degree. Even though her lack of words failed to prove her will, her action did just that, and left an even stronger legacy behind. Keller proved her will to accomplish a college degree simply, with her actions.

Like Keller, Nelson Mandela also left a legacy behind with his actions. Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former president, freed South African blacks from segregation during the Apartheid. Before ending Apartheid, Mandela saw the discrimination in South Africa between whites and blacks, and vowed to put an end to it. However, it was not simple. Ending the Apartheid took Mandela over 20 years to accomplish, but his actions will stay in the hearts of South Africans longer than anything Mandela said. Mandela proves that, with actions, he caused a revolutionary change for the good of the people.

When compared to actions, words are nothing. "A picture is worth 1000 words." With that, an action is worth 1000 pictures.

#### Score Point 4

The writer develops the thesis that "action proves the will to accomplish something when words fail to do so" through two different historical examples—Helen Keller and Nelson Mandela. In both examples, the writer provides specific details that create biographical context and add depth to the explanation. He connects these two disparate examples with a transitional sentence at the beginning of paragraph three (Like Keller, Nelson Mandela also left a legacy behind with his actions), enabling the writer to build meaning. In addition the word choice is purposeful and precise, and sentence control and conventions are strong. Overall, this engaging essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

People say there are more than 100 ways to say "I love you" whether it be "have a good evening," "call me when you get home," or even "watch where you're going!" I believe, there are also numerous ways to show that phrase. It could be something subtle like holding open a door, or something life changing like giving up smoking. In fact, sometimes actions truly speak louder than all the strings of 26 letters a person could think up.

Growing up, my uncle has always been the "third parent" for my sister and I. He gives us advice, helps pick out phone cases, and even promised to take us to get our 2<sup>nd</sup> ear piercing when we turn 18. Now, hearing all that would probably make him seem like the coolest uncle ever, but when we were younger, he was the one to watch out for. We were terrified of the 6'2" football-loving buff dude and shyed away when he was near. He would never let us jump on our beds or play with knives or do anything fun! I later came to realize that he was doing all this because he loved us and wanted to keep us safe. Even though he didn't use the "L-word" often, his actions certainly portrayed his affection through countless bandaged knees and "Teen Titans" marathons, we were just late in realizing it.

Feelings don't have to be relayed through poetry or prose. They can be well understood through actions. Anyone can make a promise sound sincere, but to act upon it is the real deal! Contracts may be sealed with ink, paper, and vibrant words, but the pounding of muscle, bones, and sinew definitely outperform the most detailed journal entry.

#### Score Point 4

In this accomplished writing performance, the writer provides a thoughtful introduction about the many ways to show love, ending it with the clear thesis that "sometimes actions truly speak louder than all the strings of 26 letters a person could think up." The writer uses the personal example of her uncle to develop the essay. Her purposeful and precise word choice strongly contributes to the effective development. The movement from sentence to sentence is well controlled, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow. The effective conclusion shows the writer's unique perspective and adds to the depth of the essay (Contracts may be sealed with ink, paper, and vibrant words, but the pounding of muscle, bones, and sinew definitely outperform the most detailed journal entry).

Although you can swear time and time again on something, your actions are the only way to prove you actually mean it. You could easily swear to someone you'd never hurt them at the same time you hold a gun to their head and pull the trigger. The average human mouth is capable of saying anything, the only way to sustain your words as true is by letting your actions mimic your words.

It's easy to apologize for something and promise to never do it again. It can be very difficult to actually keep that promise, though, and many people will instead let that promise fall through as empty. Someone with smoking habits could easily make a resolution to never smoke again, and they could just as easily pick up a cigarette and pretend they never made that promise at all.

Trust is the strongest thing in life, but at the same time it's the thing most easily broken. No matter how many times you say you'll do something, your words are meaningless unless you actually do them. Fulfilling your promises is key to maintaining trust in relationships, but if your actions don't obey your words, that trust can fall through and shatter even the sturdiest of relationships.

Anyone can say anything at all, and words are tossed around as carelessly as pennies. Only actions can make them mean anything. Words may add up, but actions are what decides if they topple over into meaningless lies or keep standing strong.

#### Score Point 4

The writer presents the thesis that because “the average human mouth is capable of saying anything, the only way to sustain your words as true is by letting your actions mimic your words.” He skillfully crafts the essay using a philosophical approach. He focuses his development on the ease with which we make promises, the difficulty of keeping those promises, and the loss of trust that occurs when that happens. The writer’s purposeful use of language adds thoughtfulness and depth to the essay (if your actions don’t obey your words, that trust can fall through and shatter even the sturdiest of relationships; words are tossed around as carelessly as pennies). Strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the explanation, and keen observations about trust and relationships not only add specificity and thoughtfulness to the piece but also reflect his unique perspective on the topic. This essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

The Arab Spring. An international uprising in North African countries where citizens overthrew their corrupt governments. It all started when one Tunisian man set himself on fire in front of a city hall. When protesting against the Tunisian government, he found that his self-immolation was heard louder than any grievance he yelled.

This martyr was told by Tunisian officials that he could not sell his fruit. His fruit was his means of life; it was the only way he could make money. When he went to the city hall to protest, no one let him in or even heard his desperate cry. There was nothing else he could do, so he made a statement. He lit himself on fire. Video was taken of his martyrdom and it spread throughout the country. Protesters were raucous, hungry for change. Video of these rallies spread to other countries, and the process continued. Rebellion spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East. The Egyptian and Tunisian governments were usurped. Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Turkey are all experiencing protests.

It all started when one Tunisian man took action and lit himself on fire. One man caused an international uprising. I don't know about you, but I have never heard a word louder than that.

#### Score Point 4

In this skillfully crafted essay, the writer explains how one man's actions spoke louder than words and sparked the Arab Spring. The essay's narrow focus on the martyr who set himself on fire strengthens its overall coherence, and strong sentence-to-sentence connections make the writer's presentation easy to follow. The purposeful and precise word choice employed throughout the piece is complemented by a consistent control of conventions, allowing the writer to establish a strong expository tone and convey ideas clearly. The specific details about the martyr, video record, and seeds of rebellion spreading across North Africa and the Middle East add substance to the essay and demonstrate that this writer possesses a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.