



# **English II**

## **Persuasive Scoring Guide**

**April 2018**

# English II

## Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation from baseball legend Babe Ruth (1895–1948).

It's the way a team plays as a whole that determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

—*Babe Ruth*

Babe Ruth believed that a team could be great only if its individual players were willing to work together. Think carefully about this belief.

Write an essay stating your opinion on whether it's better to succeed individually or as part of a team.

Be sure to —

- state your position clearly
- use appropriate organization
- provide specific support for your argument
- 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 persuasive 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 issue specified in the prompt, but the writer's position is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the issue, 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 argument is ineffective and unconvincing because the reasons and evidence the writer uses to support the position 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 persuasive writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the persuasive purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. 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.

The only way that a team will ever be successful is that all of players are working together. In a quote said by the legend Babe Ruth "It's the way a team plays as a whole that determine it success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

In the team you can have good player but that don't work good together they won't be good as a team.

**Score Point 1**

In this essay the writer attempts to argue in favor of succeeding as part of a team effort but does not establish a clear position. The progression of ideas is weak because the writer repeats ideas (The only way a team will be successful is if all the members work together) throughout the brief essay. Additionally, instead of offering original thoughts or specific examples, the writer merely reiterates the quotation and concludes with only a restatement of the idea from the quotation, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the persuasive writing task. Furthermore, the writer's sentences are awkward and uncontrolled ("The only way that a team will ever be successful is that all of players are working together"; "In the team you can have good player but that don't work good together they won't be good as a team"), significantly limiting the effectiveness of this very limited writing performance.

When you read what Babe Ruth quote what do you think? "It's the way a team plays as a whole that determines it success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime". When you read this you might have different thoughts in mind, but what do you think? Is it successful when you play individually or as part of a team?

There's so many answers to this question, but in my opinion workin as a team is so much better. When you work in a team you can get more things done when you work individually. You have more support and effort on doing what ever you want to do, but the most import you have help when you can't do it.

So working as a group it's more better then working individually, just think about Babe Ruth quote

**Score Point 1**

The writer begins this response by repeating the quotation from the prompt and then posing rhetorical questions (“... what do you think? Is it successful when you play individually or as part of a team?”) before offering the weak position in the beginning of the second paragraph that “working as a team is so much better” than working individually. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction. Additionally, the writer attempts to support the position, but the assertions that working as a team will enable you to “get more done when you work individually” because “you have more support and effort” and that “you have help when you can’t do it” are vague and insufficient, resulting in an ineffective argument. Furthermore, sentences are awkward and uncontrolled (“When you work in a team you can get more things done when you work individually”; “So working as a group it’s more better then working individually, just think about Babe Ruth quote”), significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay. For these reasons, this essay demonstrates a very limited writing performance.

You could succeed in a bunch of ways. But I think one way is the best way to succeed is as a team. You would have much better support and everyone was extra hard to work together and get your way to succeed. Some people are just really smart and can do it on there own. Well pretty much anyone could do it but you got to put your everything into it. Im sure if everyone would listen to learning they would be good knowing whats right or wrong.

**Score Point 1**

In this response the writer’s position is that “the best way to succeed is as a team.” Most ideas are related to the issue specified in the prompt, but the writer does not maintain focus on the position, weakening the coherence of the essay. The argument is unconvincing because the writer asserts that while working as a team, “you would have much better support and everyone was extra hard to work together and get your way to succeed,” but immediately contradicts this claim by stating that “some people are just really smart and can do it on there own.” The writer’s awkward sentences (“You would have much better support and everyone was extra hard to work together and get your way to succeed”; “Im sure if everyone would listen to learning they would be good knowing whats Right or wrong”) significantly limit the effectiveness of this very limited writing performance.

Smack! It's a line drive down the third base line. The ball bounces off the wall as the runner rounds first base. You're Out! Says the man in uniform. Now thats how a team Plays together yell the coach from the dug out.

Playing together as a team is how you win championships. Babe Ruth Stated once that "It's the way a team plays as a whole that determines its success."

**Score Point 1**

This response begins with a scenario in which a baseball team successfully tags a runner on the other team out at first base. While the scenario is generally related to the issue specified in the prompt, the writer does not tie it to the position that “playing together as a team is how you win championships,” weakening the coherence of the essay. Furthermore, the development of ideas is weak because the only evidence the writer uses to support the position is a restatement of the quotation from the prompt. Additionally, awkward sentences (“You’re out! Says the man in uniform. Now thats how a team Plays together yell the coach from the dug out”) significantly limit the effectiveness of this very limited writing performance.

## **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 persuasive task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the issue specified in the prompt, but the writer's position is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of a clear, effective position 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 argument is superficial and largely unconvincing because the reasons and evidence the writer uses to support the position 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 persuasive writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the persuasive purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. 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.

Is it better to succeed individually or as a team? I say it is better to succeed individually because most stuff in life you will need to do individually. Another reason is because if you have the ability to succeed individually, then you can also have the ability to succeed in a team.

Most of the stuff you accomplish in life will be individually. If you succeed individually also you will get all the credit which is better. And no one will say if it wasn't for me you wouldn't have done it. If there is a money prize you get it all.

The other reason is because if you are capable of having success individually you can do it in a team. Just take that individual talent and put it in a team. Basically is do two things in one.

In conclusion working individually is better because that how it will be most of the time individually. It gives you all of the prize and credit to you also.

**Score Point 2**

In this response the writer argues in favor of individual success because “most stuff in life you will do individually” and “if you have the ability to succeed individually then you can have the ability to succeed in a team.” The writer organizes the essay by classifying the different ways people can be successful individually, but the repetition of the position throughout the essay causes minor disruptions in the flow of ideas. Additionally, the reasons and evidence the writer uses to defend the position are superficial and reflect little or no thoughtfulness. For example, the writer asserts that individual success and team success are interchangeable because “Basically is do two things in one.” The writer’s awkward sentences and general word choice (“If you succeed individually also you will get all the credit which is better. And no one will say if it wasn't for me you wouldn't have done it”) further weaken the effectiveness of this basic writing performance.

It is better to succeed individually because the ones you may succeed with will not always be there by your side. It is good to have your own knowledge. When you as a person can succeed on your own that is the best feeling. No one can take away from you you're the one that has put the effort in to being successful. Yes, you may have had some help along the way. But I'm also sure those people weren't with you all the way til the end. Being able to succeed in life is a blessing. I hope one day in life I can succeed alone. I don't mind the help getting there. But once I make it there it'd be one of the best moments of my life. I know to succeed individually may seem impossible because you may feel like you may always need to depend on someone else well, I don't want that to be me. I want to depend on myself. I can do it and so can you.

**Score Point 2**

The writer takes the position that “it is better to succeed individually because the ones you may succeed with will not always be there by your side.” The progression of ideas is not always controlled because the writer repeats ideas (“When you as a person can succeed on your own that is the best feeling”; “Being able to succeed in life is a blessing”; “But once I make it there I’d be one of the best moments of my life”). This repetition interferes with the writer’s ability to develop ideas beyond the superficial level. Holistically, this essay demonstrates a basic writing performance.

Does doing everything individually is a better option? It is not a better option, because by working individually there would be less help. Although working individually will force people to learn more and work harder, but working with a team are also benefits like meeting new friends and learning more.

Learning in a different way can be entertainment and easier. For example, at school if a teacher give a assignment to learn a lesson the better way would be like working as a group. Specially, groups can make their own activities on that way the people from the group would enjoy the moment and it will be a lot easier to learn. For instance, working in a team it is a great opportunity to meet new people. To illustrate, in majority of sports teams there are always new members and by having practice and working as a team those kids or even teenager will get along and also communication. Being part of a team could bring joy by not feeling alone at home or anywhere else. A team is like a family full of happiness and new opportunities like new friends.

Meeting new people in a enjoyable way can bring happiness and positive effects in people lives. Wether is better to participate in a team. Don't be afraid and go be part of a team and enjoy the positive things of being in a team.

**Score Point 2**

In this response the writer offers the weak position “working with a team are also benefits like meeting new friends and learning more.” The progression of ideas is not always controlled because the transitions (“For example,” “Specially,” “For instance,” “To illustrate”) are too formulaic to support the flow of the essay. In addition, the writer’s reasons and evidence (Working in a group can be entertaining and a great learning opportunity; Being on a team teaches communications skill and brings joy and friendships) are too briefly developed to be convincing. Furthermore, imprecise word choice (“the better way,” “on that way,” “a lot easier”) does not contribute to the quality of the essay. Awkward sentences (“Learning in a different way can be entertainment and easier”; “As a team those kids or even teenagers will get along and also communication”) weaken the effectiveness of this basic writing performance.

ASK yourself, do you think its better to be successful as an individual or as a team? Being successful as a individual makes you confident in knowing what you capable of doing. It is better to be successful individually.

When you succeed at something it could be private or it could be broad casted to everyone, every where! It makes you feel like you accomplished something great and can do anything you put your mind too. All the focus is on you and your the star!

Being successful as a team takes more emphasis off of you and is put towards the team as a whole. It doesn't make you feel as accomplished as succeeding individually. Being successful as a team can be rewarding when you want to celebrate after a big win but when its just you, then it gives you pride and respect for yourself.

**Score Point 2**

The writer of this essay asserts that “Being successful as an individual makes you confident in knowing what you capable of doing.” Using a compare-contrast organizing structure that is somewhat suited to the persuasive task, the writer contrasts the benefits of succeeding individually (“It makes you feel like you accomplished something great and can do anything you put your mind too”) with the drawback of team success (Being successful as a team takes more emphasis off of you and it does not make you feel as accomplished as an individual). However, the writer does not sufficiently develop the reasons and evidence used to support the position, leading to a superficial argument. Additionally, the writer’s general word choice (“everyone, every where,” “something great,” “can do anything,” “more emphasis off of you,” “make you feel”) does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. Overall, this essay represents a basic writing performance.

## **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 persuasive task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear position. Most ideas are related to the position and are focused on the issue 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. The argument is largely convincing because the reasons and evidence the writer uses to support the position are specific and appropriate.
- ❑ 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 persuasive 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 persuasive purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. Word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are reasonably varied and adequately controlled, contributing for the most part 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.

Succeeding individually can be the best feeling in the world. You know that your success is from your hard work and dedication. Nobody had to help you, you did it all by yourself. However, succeeding with a team comes with an even sweeter taste of victory.

Teammates are like brothers (or sisters), they fight sometimes but are there to support you when it really matters. You can trust your teammates to let you make plays and if you don't they will pull through to fix that mistake for you. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade my baseball team got really good. We all worked hard every day together. Eventually we made it to the league Championship Game. After 5 1/2 innings of an all out blood, sweat, and tears battle the opposing team had a 3 to 1 lead. We had 3 outs to score 2 runs or we would only be second best. With one out and the bases loaded I stepped up to bat. I had already had a homerun (to score our only run) and a double so I wasn't very nervous. However, next was the pitcher and, after throwing 2 balls and 2 strikes, he threw a wicked slider to strike me out. I thought I had lost the game for us. Yet with 2 outs, my teammate, Christopher stepped up to the plate. The pitcher could sense his fear and threw him a fastball which Christopher hammered over the left field fence.

Without my teammates there to support me we wouldn't all have trophies in our rooms that read "2012 League Champions". Through thick and thin we help each other out. Trying to succeed on your own can't give you the same feeling of security.

**Score Point 3**

The writer of this response offers the clear position that “succeeding with a team comes with an even sweeter taste of victory.” The writer uses an anecdotal approach to share a story about how participating on a championship baseball team led to satisfaction and camaraderie. Transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show how the anecdote supports the writer’s position (“Teammates are like brothers [or sisters]”; “they . . . are there to support you when it really matters”; “You can trust your teammates to let you make plays and if you don’t they will pull through to fix that mistake for you”). The argument is largely convincing because the reasons and evidence the writer uses to support the position are specific and appropriate (“We all worked hard every day together. Eventually we made it to the league Championship Game”). Additionally, some thoughtfulness is evident in the concluding sentence when the writer states, “Trying to succeed on your own can’t give you the same feeling of security.” Furthermore, the writer’s clear word choice (“blood, sweat, and tears battle”; “hammered over the left field fence”) reinforces the idea that team success is more personally satisfying than individual achievement. Holistically, this essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Succeeding on your own is a great accomplishment, but the simple truth is that people accomplish more when they're a part of a team rather than doing something as an individual.

For example, look at the NBA. Kyrie Irving is considered one of the greatest Point Guards who currently plays the game. Everyone gives him plenty of respect, but he plays for one of the worst teams in the NBA. One man can not carry a team, because everyone has to be a strong contributor, otherwise none of the team's goals will be accomplished. That is why it is better to succeed as a team, because life isn't about who stands out the most, it's about who accomplishes the most.

Accomplishments, however, are gained when people with the drive to do something work together as a unit and not be selfish. It is much easier to decide that you'd rather do something on your own and be recognized for it instead of accept a role as part of a team, and that is why good teams are respected more than any one player.

In conclusion, there's nothing wrong with succeeding on your own, but if you're ever offered the chance to succeed as a part of a team, you need to take it, because that team will be able to accomplish greater things than any individual.

### Score Point 3

In this essay the writer's position is that "people accomplish more when they're part of a team rather than doing something as an individual." Although the writer's transitions are somewhat formulaic ("For example," "however," "In conclusion"), they are sufficient to support the claim that team play is more efficient than individual endeavors. The writer uses the combination of a specific example about basketball star Kyrie Irving's performance on a struggling team and the philosophical argument that "accomplishments are gained when people work together as a unit" to provide sufficient development and some thoughtfulness. The conclusion, in which the writer acknowledges and then rebuts the brief counterclaim that "there's nothing wrong with succeeding on your own, but if you're ever offered the chance to succeed as a team, you need to take it," demonstrates a good understanding of the persuasive writing task. Furthermore, sentences are reasonably varied and adequately controlled ("Everyone gives him plenty of respect, but he plays for one of the worst teams in the NBA"; "Accomplishments, however, are gained when people with the drive to do something work together as a unit and not be selfish"), contributing for the most part to the effectiveness of this satisfactory writing performance.

When it comes to success, it is always better to succeed as a team. Being apart of team allows people to have a greater chance of success through the cooperation and communication of others rather than "by an individual.

Working together as a teams means that a team shall also succeed together. A team that allows themselves to work together and become 1 unit striving towards the same goal is virtually unbeatable. For example, in basketball if a team were to cooperate with each other and play as a unit, they would be more efficient at scoring than a team comprised of 2 individual superstar athletes. To succeed as a team also means that you must communicate better.

If a team wants to play better, then communication is a must. A contributing factor to success as a team is communication because it allows for a group of people to be on the same page. For example, in football if a quarterback did not communicate a play to his teammates then everyone would be doing different plays. The same rule applies to a team.

Success as a team is better in general because all people are cooperating and communicating as a whole. An individual simply cannot compete without the help of others. The next time you choose to compete, remember that "It's the way a team plays as a whole that determines it's success."

### Score Point 3

The writer takes the clear position that “being a part of a team allows people to have a greater chance of success through cooperation and communication of others.” The writer uses a compare-contrast organizing structure consisting of two hypothetical examples of team success—the first about cooperation in a basketball game leading to efficiency of scoring and the second about how good communication helps players understand what plays to run in a football game. Transitions that are, for the most part, meaningful (“Working together as a team means that the team shall also succeed together”; “If a team wants to play better, then communication is a must”) support the assertion that teamwork leads to greater success than working alone. While the examples of a basketball and a football game are somewhat similar, the writer shows some thoughtfulness when discussing the effects of cooperation (efficiency of scoring) and communication (“if a quarterback did not communicate . . . everyone would be doing different plays”), making the argument largely convincing. The writer’s clear and specific word choice (“virtually unbeatable”; “more efficient”; “on the same page”) reinforces the idea that working as a team is highly beneficial. Holistically, this essay demonstrates a satisfactory writing performance.

Fight with your team, laugh with your team, but do not get lost in your team. So often people get stuck focusing on what their team does they forget that they are part of the team.

Acting as an individual moving towards success does not mean selfishly sacrificing your team, it means selflessly reaching towards success. In team sports there is oftentimes a star who shines above the rest. Only in doing their best can they truly help the team. That individual's success comes when they do what's best for the team, even if that means passing the ball. Success for these stars is not in bragging rights for making the winning basket, but in knowing that they helped another person make the basket.

In groups, such as team projects there is always that person that is just a little bit behind everyone else. If the team as a whole is doing well then it can be easy to forget that the stragler needs to work to. There is only so much you can learn from picking the right team. True progress is made when each individual makes it their goal to progress towards a common goal, not ride on the backs of others.

Whether the star or the benchwarmer, everyone needs to make their individual view of success one that will line up with the team, so that by achieving their goal they are helping the team.

### Score Point 3

In this essay the writer offers the position that “. . . an individual moving toward success does not mean sacrificing your team, it means selflessly reaching toward success.” The progression of ideas is generally logical because the writer’s sentence-to-sentence connections (“In team sports there is oftentimes a star who shines above the rest. Only in doing their best can they truly help the team. That individual’s success comes when they do what’s best for the team, even if that means passing the ball”) are sufficient to support the idea of selflessness for the good of the team. The writer uses philosophical reasoning (“Only in doing their best can [individuals] truly help the team”; “True progress is achieved when each member makes it their goal to progress toward a common goal”) to sufficiently develop the argument. The thoughtful conclusion (“everyone needs to make their individual view of success . . . that will line up with the team, so that by achieving their goal they are helping the team”) is original rather than formulaic. Additionally, the writer’s sentences are reasonably varied and well controlled (“Success for these stars is not in bragging rights for making the winning basket, but in knowing that they helped another person make the basket”; “In groups, such as team projects there is that person that is just a little bit behind everyone else”), contributing for the most part to the effectiveness of this satisfactory writing performance.

## **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 persuasive task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear position. All ideas are strongly related to the position and are focused on the issue 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 highly effective. The argument is forceful and convincing because the reasons and evidence the writer uses to support the position are specific and well chosen.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to recognize the complexities of the issue, consider opposing or alternate points of view, use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing, or connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the persuasive writing task.

### Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the persuasive purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. 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.

4 years ago LeBron James, 6'8" NBA super star containing 100% body muscle and averaging over 20 points a game lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to the playoffs falling short of his ultimate goal of winning an NBA championship every time. It wasn't until he moved to the Miami Heat that he completed his goal winning 2 titles in 3 years. This is not due to his individual success, but his teams success because as you can see he failed at reaching his goal all on his own. Competing as part of a team in whatever you do whether its striving for championships or working to find a cure for cancer is always more rewarding.

As a team each person brings a different valuable component needed to be successful. For example in football would a man 5'5" comprised of only lean muscle be fit to protect his quarter back? Of course not, but he would be fit to be a receiver and get past his mans into the end zone. Each of the pieces of a team are valuable assets that work together like a well oiled machine to succeed.

Although some may argue that there are people who have what it takes to succeed on their own, do they really do it all by themselves? Even in an individual competition, yes a person may compete by themselves, but surely they did not somehow gain the knowledge to sharpen their skills enough to win. They gained knowledge and training from different people to aid in their accomplishment. So really it was a team effort as different resources were used.

When working day in and day out with a group of people that have the same goals, you bond with these people and will become like a family. This makes it even more special to win as a team rather than as an individual, so find people who are willing to work just as hard to complete a goal and don't try to do it on your own. A reward much more rewarding awaits when you work together.

**Score Point 4**

The writer of this essay introduces the issue with the well-chosen example of LeBron James's success with the Miami Heat. According to the writer, James was able to achieve his dream of winning an NBA championship only after he joined Miami. The writer then segues into the position that "competing as part of a team in whatever you do whether striving for championships or finding a cure for cancer is always more rewarding." The essay is unified because the writer maintains focus on the position and on the issue specified in the prompt. Meaningful transitions ("As a team"; "Although some may argue"; "When working day in and day out with a group of people") and strong sentence-to-sentence connections ("Even in individual competition, yes a person may compete by themselves, but surely they did not somehow gain the knowledge to sharpen their skills enough to win. They gained knowledge and training through different people to aid in their accomplishment") clearly show how teamwork leads to success. The writer forcefully defends the position with a well-chosen reason (A short, lean football player can contribute to his team in the role of a receiver), creating a largely convincing argument. In the third paragraph, the writer recognizes the complexity of the issue by posing and refuting the counterclaim that "Although some may argue that there are people who have what it takes to succeed on their own, do they really do it all by themselves?" Furthermore, the writer's purposeful and precise word choice ("ultimate goal," "valuable component," "valuable assets," "well oiled machine," "sharpen their skills," "an award much more awarding awaits") clarifies the value of teamwork. Overall, this essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

There will come a day when all who were once part of a soaring team—a team that achieved and accomplished great awards and praise—must disperse into individuals, focusing on their own personal talents and leadership. This day is not a sorrowful one; on the contrary, it's a day celebrating one's individuality and personal characteristics. While a team may fade the stains of weakness in individuals, it is better to succeed in a solitary state. It is better to succeed following the heels of no one; there is a place beyond the intertwining hands of a team where one must learn alone. In college, in a job interview, in a moment of great vitality and importance there will be no team. This is not a gloomy thought but rather one of hopefulness. With individuality there is a specific focus to one's personal talents and skills; there is a leader that consists of the whole team. In individuality there are no intersecting thoughts there is only the voice and thoughts of one, the credibility of one. No further are there debates and spectacles present in a team. The elimination of shared praise is what comes with the success of an individual. When one runs the marathon of life it is always alone. Of course, there are those that help and guide but there is no array of a team. When one is sweaty, exhausted, tear-stricken, frustrated—all emotions of a sole mind—one will remember that at the finish line there will be no other praise but one that is called by your name. Each person is made different; each has their own appearance, thoughts, values, creativity, and individual characteristics. If weighed down by an army of people how is one supposed to shine in the splendor of their own great characteristics? Shake the weight off. Bask in the solitary success that is individuality.

#### Score Point 4

In this essay the writer takes the position that “it is better to succeed following the heels of no one; there is a place beyond the intertwining hands of a team where one must learn alone.” The writer’s sentence-to-sentence connections (“In college, in a job interview, in a moment of great vitality and importance there will be no team. This is not a gloomy thought but rather one of hopefulness”) strongly show how persevering alone is advantageous. Using a philosophical approach, the writer forcefully defends the position with specific, well-chosen reasons (People must work as individuals to get into college or compete for a job; When working alone, one does not have to contend with competing views; The satisfaction earned when completing a marathon run) that reflect the writer’s recognition of the complex nature of the issue. Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, and precise word choice (“talents and leadership,” “personal talents and skills,” “credibility of one,” “solitary success”) reinforces the writer’s claim that individual achievement is preferable to working with a team. For these reasons, this essay demonstrates an accomplished writing performance.

Is team success predicated on individuals, or is individual success predicated on the team? This question has no true, clear answer, but there's a question inside the question, that does. Is it better, or more beneficial, for someone to have individual or team success? While Disney propaganda and anti-greed morality may say otherwise, the answer is obviously to succeed as an individual. Individual success brings more benefits, thus making it better, than team success.

Do little kids dream of making game winning shots, or do they dream of passing it to someone who makes the game winning shot? Do high schoolers want to be the star of the team or do they want to ride the bench all the way to a state title? Why is it that? It's because we, sadly, live in a materialistic world (the US is especially guilty of this) where one man is glorified over the rest of the participants. That's why America's favorite sport, football, is one in which we glorify one position, quarterback, over the rest. We give out MVP's to one player, on the best team, we hand out Oscars to a single actor of the many needed for a successful film, we award Grammys to the single performer, as if they were the only ones who wrote, produced, promoted, and published the music. Team activity, group activity, we always single out one person to give praise and credit. Everyone else, works to be that one person. That's why it's better to be (on a success-level) Michael Phelps than Michael Jordan. The former won a million gold medals, the latter won a million awards of his own, but the former is the only one who can claim to have done it alone (other than relay races of course).

Ultimately, it comes down to the individual. Do you want to be Batman, or Robin? Do you want to be the one with all the attention, spotlight, and glory? Or do you prefer to go unnoticed, while still being far the fine? Regardless, more power, often times money, and glory goes to the individual, thus making it better.

**Score Point 4**

In this thoughtful, tightly focused essay, the writer offers the clear position that “individual success brings more benefits, thus making it better, than team success.” Using a compare-contrast organizing structure, the writer frames the essay with rhetorical questions (“Is team success predicated on individuals, or is individual success predicated on the team?”; “Do little kids dream of making game winning shots, or do they dream of passing it to someone who makes the game winning shot”) that are particularly well suited to the persuasive writing task. This creates an essay that is unified and coherent. The writer forcefully defends the position using specific and well-chosen reasons (“we glorify one position, quarterback, over the rest”; “We hand out Oscars to a single actor of the many needed for a successful film”). Overall, this essay demonstrates an accomplished writing performance.

An orchestra can be comprised of the most accomplished, virtuosic soloists in the world and every player can know their part of the music like the back of their hand, but if nobody is making an effort to listen and adjust to one another and no one is challenging themselves to look beyond the music on the page, then the orchestra will ultimately fail. Succeeding as a team is better and more satisfying than succeeding individually.

In the process of becoming successful as a group, you must learn teamwork, a social skill everyone must acquire in their lives. Learning how to work as a group is a skill emphasized in school and remains prevalent in the workforce as well. This is because a team is only as strong as the weakest member and in the real world you can not rely on one person to pull all the extra weight caused by slackers that aren't actively working towards the team's common goal.

Group work is not only beneficial socially, but also emotionally. Teams enable people to establish relationships that go beyond that of an average friendship. This is because the members of a team must have immense amounts of trust for the other members, for without it the group can never properly work together and establish empathetic connections necessary to succeed.

While some would argue that individual success is better because it teaches us discipline needed to achieve a personal goal, the opposite is true because individual success can never surmount the social skills and emotional relationships reaped from team success. Listen to the symphony around you and trust your fellow musicians to look beyond the music on the page and embrace your team for the masterpiece it is.

**Score Point 4**

The writer of this skillfully crafted essay uses the metaphor of a symphony orchestra comprised of talented individuals to introduce the clear position that “succeeding as a team is better and more satisfying than succeeding individually.” Using a philosophical approach, the writer sustains focus on the issue to create a unified and coherent essay. The writer defends the position with specific, well-chosen reasons (“a team is only as strong as the weakest member”; “members of a team must have immense amounts of trust for the other members, for without it the group can never . . . establish empathetic connections necessary to succeed”), creating a forceful and convincing argument. The acknowledgment and rebuttal of the counterclaim that “While some would argue that individual success is better because it teaches us discipline needed to pursue a personal goal, the opposite is true” demonstrates the writer’s thorough understanding of the persuasive writing task. Purposeful, precise word choice (“team’s common goal,” “beyond that of an average friendship,” “establish empathetic connections,” “emotional relationships reaped from team success”) emphasizes the writer’s claim that teamwork is more rewarding than individual success. Holistically, this essay represents an accomplished writing performance.



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