



English II Writing

Persuasive Scoring Guide April 2013

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English II Writing Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation.

What I like about cities is that everything is
king-size, the beauty and the ugliness.

—*Joseph Brodsky*

Although large cities are exciting places to live, small towns have their own special characteristics. Think carefully about this idea.

Write an essay stating your position on whether it is better to live in a large city or in a small town.

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.

Small towns have been always in my top list of places to live . Why not in big cities? because like what Joseph Brodsky said. " what I like about cities is that everything is King-size, the beauty and the ugliness." what he is trying to say is that in big cities you can find many things, which are very good, and very bad.

Thats why a small town is better, because it has everything that everybody needs, like stores, restaurants, schools, jobs, and also entertainments, and the bad things aren't that bad.

It is betwene choosing a city with tons of good things and a bt of bad thigs, or town with bad and good thing moderated.

Score Point 1

The writer provides the clear position that small towns are better. However, the writer's development of ideas supporting the position is weak because the evidence he uses is vague and insufficient. The first paragraph repeats the quotation from the prompt page and offers little support beyond the idea that things in cities "are very good and very bad." The writer provides a few ideas to support the position, but the ideas are either not developed or vague (e.g., "the bad things aren't that bad"). This vague and undeveloped support causes the argument to be ineffective. The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

It's better to live in a small town because in larger cities there is lots of crimes and criminals and people could kidnap you easily. In smaller cities there is hardly any crime and people won't kidnap you. Also in bigger cities you don't know hardly anyone because there is too many people and you have to spend lots of money on gas because the cities are too big. In smaller cities there isn't that many people so you could know everyone in the town, and in smaller cities you don't have to spend lots of money on gas because the city is small.

Score Point 1

In this essay the writer takes the position that small towns are better than big cities. To support this position, the writer provides three reasons: in small towns there is hardly any crime, you can know everyone because the population is so small, and you don't have to spend much money on gas. Instead of developing the argument, the writer simply applies the negative of each idea to big cities to illustrate why they are worse than small towns. For example, the writer states that you have to spend lots of money on gas in big cities, but in small towns you don't have to spend as much money on gas. This "flip-side" organizational structure is ineffective because it is repetitious and results in an unconvincing argument. These factors cause the essay to be very limited.

City life is great! You can hear exciting things, see exciting things. Experience good music, entertainment, & good food. Even cities have their ups & downs. Small cities or big cities. But which one to live in a big city like the big apple, or a small city like — ,tx?

Large city are nice, & have more events which mean more attractions. And the more expensive & hard to get into a local area. The smaller city has some attractions & easy to get into places. But looks kind of boring to live in, but peaceful & quiet. While a larger city would be much more fun. As a small city good social life of neighbors & community.

As living in a small city good & peaceful living in a large city is much better. The large city is for me if you want like to have fun & go out. But for the small city you could enjoy peace & social activities. Then living in a large city is for people that like to have fun & go out.

Score Point 1

In this essay the writer takes the position that large cities are better than small cities. Awkward sentences limit the effectiveness of the essay, and serious and persistent errors in grammar and usage create disruptions in the fluency of the writing. Although the writer attempts to provide some reasons and evidence, the uncontrolled sentences and conventions errors interfere with meaning and prevent the reader from fully understanding the argument. This composition represents a very limited writing performance.

I think it's better to live in a city because you have a better opportunity to get a good job or school. Also you could explore the outer region of the city, you could also make a lot of new friends. Also living in the city lets you explore different types of jobs that you didn't even know existed. You could also find apartments, condos but few houses because everything in the city is always fast moving and you can barely settle down for a few weeks. But living in a small town is also great because everybody knows each other and you could walk everywhere because everything is close by and you don't hear as much noise as you would hear in a city. Also in a small town there is barely any crimes happening and you could get a good night rest because it's very quiet.

Score Point 1

The writer states that there are advantages in living in a city and a small town. However, the lack of a position statement causes the writing to be unclear because it forces the reader to guess which position the writer is trying to support. In addition, the essay has no coherence because the writer shifts abruptly from sentence to sentence and idea to idea. For example, the writer states that living in cities allows people to make friends. In the next sentence, she states that living in cities allows for more job opportunities. Both of these ideas relate to the benefits of living in the city, but they do not relate to each other. The lack of a position statement and the absence of a coherent argument cause this essay to be very limited.

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.

I think that they both have there ups and their downs. Big cities are great, what with all the latest tech, and fashion. All the people, the different cultures mixed together is great. But there's no open spaces, no fresh air. And there's crime every where and you just know what to do. Now living in a small city is cool too. You have the open spaces, the fresh air, the stars at night. A small tightly knit community that all loves each other. But ~~there's~~ there's the downs you never meet new people, you don't have all the latest and greatest stuff in the world. So my opinion on which is better doesn't really matter it's what you want in your life that makes living in a Big City, or a small city the better.

Score Point 2

In the last sentence of this basic writing performance, the writer asserts that there are advantages and disadvantages to living in a large city or a small town; it's up to each individual person to decide which is better. The writer uses an appropriate organizational strategy (compare/contrast) to develop his position. The development of ideas, however, is superficial because the evidence the writer uses to support his position is too briefly developed, and the sentence-to-sentence connections are too weak to effectively show the relationships among ideas. In addition, the writer demonstrates only a partial control of sentences and conventions.

I've lived in little ol' _____, Texas my whole life. It's one of the smallest towns around here. And I love it.

First there's the train tracks, then there's the old general store, across from the post office. Near that is a odd shaped building that was supposed to be a car museum, but never really made it. Down the road some is the dump, where I rescued my cat a few years ago.

The best part about living in a small town is my school. It's small, maybe 200 people. So you know everyone's name. And down the road from the school is Pete's. It's amazing. It is a gas station and they have personal pan pizza.

Living in a small town gives me a sense of community, standing and cheering at a football game. That's where it's at. It's amazing to know that small towns still exist at this day in age.

Score Point 2

Although the writer focuses on a description of his town and his preference for living there, he does not include a clear position statement. The writer describes the town, but some of the evidence is inappropriate. For example, the descriptions in paragraph two are included more to familiarize the reader with the area than to support a position. The argument is superficial because the persuasive evidence is too briefly presented. The writer includes some sentences that could indicate a position, such as "Living in a small town gives me a sense of community." However, the lack of a clear position statement and the inclusion of irrelevant information cause this essay to be a basic writing performance.

I think I would rather live in a small town because, it would be more peaceful. In a small town everyone would know everyone so you would have a lot of friends.

Another reason I would rather live in a small town is because everything goes at a slower pace. It doesn't have all the excitement of the city so you can relax.

The last reason I would rather live in a small town because there is less violence because, everyone is friends and your neighbors are like family. Everyone helps each other. Another reason is because there's trees and clean air, not like the city where the only thing you can see is building after building. And those are the reasons I would rather live in a small town.

Score Point 2

The writer takes the position that she prefers small towns to big cities. The writer offers several reasons to support her position; however, the development is superficial because the evidence is too briefly presented. In addition, the transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory to support the flow of the essay. This essay represents a basic writing performance.

Everything has a good side and a bad side. Everybody has their own opinion about living in a large city or a small town. I believe living in a larger city is better.

There is a positive and negative to everything. Living in a large city has its down side. Large cities are too crowded. Everywhere you go there's a bunch of people. Also there's more pollution in cities. This can lead to health problems later in life. The reason why I like larger cities is because of what they provide. Everything you need is around the corner. Also I would feel a lot safer because there's more people around you.

Living in a small town has its positive side. If you like to be alone and have privacy it's just the place for you. Less pollution, not a lot of automobiles to pollute the air. Furthermore, some people think people are more friendly but my opinion is maybe not. A small town is a good place to live but just not my choice.

Living in a larger city provides everything you need. Is the right place to live for me. Everything has its good sides and bad it depends on what you prefer.

Score Point 2

Although the writer provides the clear thesis that he thinks living in a large city is better than living in a small town, the evidence he uses in paragraph two to support his argument is weakened by his focus on the negatives as well as on the positives of living in a large city. In paragraph three, the writer further weakens his argument by discussing the mostly positive aspects of living in a small town. Overall, these problems cause the argument to be largely unconvincing, demonstrating that the writer has only a limited understanding of the persuasive writing task.

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.

While I would personally prefer to live in a small town, there exist valid points to living in a large city or smaller town. A town possesses the characteristics of friendlier, calmer setting. Crime rates are generally lower and it is an overall safer place to live. There is a stronger sense of community among those in a town, which is a valuable trait that can result in stronger interpersonal relationships among the people. Living in a small town tends to produce less stress, yet the overall feeling of a small town feels a tad sheltered. A large city certainly possesses its own benefits, a major one being the rapid circulation and transfusion of ideas, the very building blocks of modern society. There seems to be much to be experienced and received in a large city, creating a sense of curiosity and yearning. However, larger cities can provide lower standards of living and may be less healthy than residence in a smaller town. The cost-benefit ratios of these residences, however, are not completely set in stone. These factors can mean more or less to people, as they see beauty and ugliness in different ways than you.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory essay, the writer establishes the position that he would personally prefer to live in a small town, even though there are valid points to living in a large city or a smaller town. Taking a qualified position is a valid approach to the persuasive task and is considered responsive to the prompt. The writer uses specific and appropriate reasons to contrast the “sense of community” in a small town to the “transfusion of ideas” in a large city. Although the writer moves back and forth between discussing the positives and negatives of a small town versus those of a large city, the progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled because the sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay. Specific word choice helps to establish an appropriate tone and contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay. In addition, the writer’s control of conventions also strengthens the essay’s effectiveness.

It's better to live in a big city because opportunities are endless in the career you want to pursue.

For example, in the movie, *Coyote Ugly*, the main character leaves her small town to pursue her career as a singer. She leaves to New York. While there, she finds out that getting her career started is harder than what she had imagined. Eventually, she gets a job at a local bar as a singer. It wasn't what she had hoped for, but it was an opportunity she wouldn't have received in her small town.

Another example is the show *Dance Academy*. Tara, the main character, wants to be a professional ballerina. This dream is bigger than the population of her small town so she auditions for the Dance Academy in the capital of Australia. They accept her and she leaves her small town. The opportunities in the big city makes her dream of a career in dance one step closer.

In conclusion living in a big city is better because opportunities are available for whatever career you want to achieve. Whether it's being a singer, dancer, CEO, actress, athlete, or engineer the opportunities are endless.

Score Point 3

The writer immediately establishes a clear position that a big city provides the best career opportunities. The writer supports her position with appropriate examples taken from a movie and a television show. Both examples feature characters that relocate to big cities in search of careers in the arts. Although the writer's synopsis of what happens to each character shows that the opportunity would not have been available in a small town, the overall development of her body paragraphs could be more specific (it was an opportunity she wouldn't have received in her small town; the big city makes her dream of a career in dance one step closer). Overall, the strong focus, the controlled progression of ideas, and the good command of conventions outweigh the somewhat general development in this satisfactory writing performance.

When you watch movies or read books, many a times, the setting is a quaint, small town where everyone knows one another. But, is this always preferable? A small town can make you feel trapped and confined, while larger cities can make you feel like a fish in an ocean, rather than a pond.

Small towns can be rather charming to many, but larger cities can be buzzing with excitement and energy. Wonderful examples of this would be New York City or Las Vegas, cities that never sleep. There always seems to be something exciting to do. Larger cities also imply greater populations. More people mean that things will not always be routine, there will always be a chance of meeting someone new, no matter where you go.

In small towns, things can get old; you can feel as though you're in a rut you cannot side step. The way that your small town's life is may be vastly different from the rest of the world, making you a complete novice once you step foot somewhere else.

Big metropolises can be exciting and lively with every passing day there. While small towns have a charm of their own, large cities just offer too much to resist.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer states her position in the last sentence of the essay, although it is clear from the very beginning that she greatly prefers larger cities over small towns. The development of ideas is narrowly focused on the ways in which “cities can make you feel like a fish in an ocean rather than a pond.” The writer’s approach to the prompt is thoughtful and original. Through her descriptive word choice, the writer encourages the reader (using the universal “you”) to consider the opportunities of life in a big city versus the stagnancy of life in a small town. In addition, the sentences are reasonably varied and controlled, and the conventions are good.

Big cities and small towns differ greatly. The rules are different, the things to do are different, and the people are different. I come from a small town of about 7,000 people, and I'd have to say it is so much better than living in a big city.

Big cities are crowded, there seems to be no open spaces. Yeah they're fun to visit every now and then, but they get old quick. From the traffic jams to waiting in line for everything; it can cause great frustration and mental problems. It's sad that the people and kids that grow up in a big city never really get the chance to see how it is otherwise.

Now small towns on the other hand have many open spaces and isn't crowded for the most part. You don't have to wait in line much at all. The downside is there might not be as much to do in a big city, but the hospitality and citizenship makes up for that part. Everybody knows everybody in a small town; now that might not be good all the time but it's better to most people. The atmosphere is just so much cleaner and nicer in a small town.

If you live in the city I highly encourage you to visit a small town and see how it is. You never know, it might change you, I think you're truly missing out. The small towns are for me.

Score Point 3

The writer of this satisfactory essay establishes the clear position that small towns are better than big cities. He uses a compare/contrast organizational strategy to focus on the negatives of living in cities (paragraph two) versus the positives of living in small towns (paragraph three). Within each body paragraph, the writer moves quickly from idea to idea, and the flow of the essay from sentence to sentence is not always seamless. However, the argument is largely convincing because the writer uses appropriate reasons and evidence. Specific word choice helps the writer establish a consistent persuasive tone, which contributes to the quality of the essay.

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.

Having lived in both a large city in Texas and a village in rural Ireland, I can see arguments for both. While I may miss the beauty and peace of country life, comforts afforded by more metropolitan areas are difficult to ignore.

For example, I no longer have to drive an hour to get to the nearest department store or emergency care. Most of what I want, and everything I need, is at my fingertips in the city. My family owns a ranch near **Johnson City** (not a city at all), and we occasionally go there for a weekend, but it is always a slight relief to get back in to range of a cell signal. Being in the city feels more connected, more current, and in my opinion better for someone my age.

Teenagers in my little Irish village were always terribly bored. You can only go to the corner store so many times, or play so many games of street soccer, before it starts to get old. Living in Austin, which is effectively Boston to **Loughall**, all the fun in the world is a short drive away. From my house, I can walk to three parks, a library, a bakery, two toy shops and most of my friends' houses. Places I want to go to are always right at hand.

Though I have experience with both, I'd have to say that city life is more comfortable and interesting for a person of my age than living in a rural area. There are many places to go and things to see in Austin, and I am located within arm's-reach of all the necessary goods and services.

Score Point 4

The writer clearly establishes the position that “city life is more comfortable and interesting for a person [her] age than living in a rural area.” She organizes her argument by juxtaposing the conveniences of urban living in Austin with the isolation of rural life (both on her family’s ranch and in Ireland). The argument is convincing because the writer uses her own unique experiences to effectively show why living in a city is more fun and interesting than life in a rural village. In addition, the writer uses meaningful transitions to “build” the argument from paragraph to paragraph, adding depth and making her train of thought easy to follow. A consistent command of conventions and well-controlled sentences contribute to the effectiveness of this accomplished essay.

Would you rather live in a big city or a small town? That is kind of like asking whether you would rather be overwhelmed and swallowed up by where you reside, or if you want to be a part of something where you live. It is better to live in a small town where you can actually know and love the people and places around you.

Living in a small town is simply better than being in a big city. In a small town, you actually get to meet and know the people around you. If everyone is close then everyone cares about each other too. For example, in a big city, people don't care about going to others parades or sporting events. While in a small town, everyone will go to a baseball game on Friday night and everyone can cheer on the team by name. It's also not as busy. People can lay back and really enjoy their home.

City residents believe that living in a chaotic and crowded place is a good place to be because all your malls, diners, and grocery stores are right there. Unfortunately, these people don't realize what they're missing. They walk by people everyday and don't even know their names or what they do. Also, city parents will send their kids to school where they will be in a class of twenty five to thirty, while the small town people have about fifteen and they know their teachers personally. So it's clear that small towns are a better option.

Obviously, it is better to be in a small town where you feel like you're cared about and loved. Maybe you should sell that condo you have in the city and instead move to a nice neighborhood in a small town.

Score Point 4

In this thoughtful and engaging essay, the writer argues that small towns are better places to live because “you can actually know and love the people and places around you.” The argument is skillfully crafted because the writer combines cause/effect and compare/contrast organizational strategies, which are particularly well suited to the persuasive task. Using specific evidence, the writer develops the idea that, in small towns, people are truly connected to those around them, as opposed to city-dwellers, who sacrifice personal connections for convenience. The writer concludes the essay with a call to action, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the persuasive task. The specific word choice and overall strength of the conventions further contribute to the effectiveness of the essay.

I've had the benefit of experiencing both a large city and a small town. If given a choice between the two, hands down I'd choose the city any day. Big cities provide invaluable opportunities that small towns can't match to any degree.

In cities there is always something to do. When boredom attacks, a person is never very far from some sort of park/movie theatre/diner/ something to waste time. The mass of things around you in a city is great. You can always rely on a city to give you what you want. In a small town you can barely rely on a grocery store to supply decent out-of-season fruit.

The people are the seller, though. In a city you meet more people in a lifetime than you could ever court. Each one different, too. Mean, nice, old, young, interesting, dull - they each teach you a little something about the world and they each teach you a little more about yourself. I didn't know how much I valued books until a man on a bus challenged their worth. That interaction taught me about a new side of life.

Small towns have this supposed "charm," but I think cities have a charm - a better charm - all of their own. They're a place to enjoy yourself and bask in the glory of life and all it entails.

Score Point 4

In this concise, accomplished writing performance, the writer uses a compare/contrast organizing structure to develop the argument. He establishes a clear position in the last sentence of the first paragraph and maintains a tone that is appropriate to the persuasive task throughout the essay. Meaningful transitions (e.g., "The people are the seller, though") and strong sentence-to-sentence connections make the writer's train of thought easy to follow. The writer uses his own unique experiences as a basis for writing and connects ideas in interesting ways. For example, cities provide opportunities, from fresh fruit to social interactions, that small towns cannot provide. By recounting his discussion with a man on a bus, the writer effectively supports the idea that living in a city allows you to learn from all kinds of people. Purposeful and precise word choice further contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.

Would you rather have thousands of bouquets of weeds or one single beautiful blooming red rose? Just like a city can give you more quantity of something like the bouquets, a small town presents more of the beauty of this world like the rose. By living in a small town, you experience so many wonders and joys that the city can't offer.

Outside the window of a skyscraper, you capture the view of the traffic-jammed street, the people rushing by, the store signs everywhere. You experience the excitement man creates. From the view out of a small town window you experience the awe-stricking beauty nature creates. The sun peaks out of the glorious white clouds and spreads its golden light on the tall fields and fields of grain. Everything is still and calm with only the occasional car driving into the only grocery store in town. The high school students walk to school, greeting each other with a smile and high five as they pass each other.

Why is life better in a small town? It shows you the true value of life. It presents friendships to you that grow each day. It creates a sense of home and belonging. It gives you the opportunity to create a world that you yourself can control. It allows you to appreciate the natural things that you cannot create nor destroy.

Living in a small town benefits you more because it opens up the importance of life unlike the city that blinds you into getting wrapped up with unnecessary situations. It gives you a rose in your life and takes away the weeds.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished writing performance, the student asserts that living in a small town offers more wonders and joy than living in a city. The writer supports this position by using an analogy, comparing the difference between cities and towns to the difference between a bouquet of weeds and a single rose. The essay is thoughtful and engaging because the writer connects ideas in interesting ways. For example, in paragraph two, she contrasts the “excitement man creates” in cities to the “beauty nature creates” in small towns. In paragraph three, she argues that the friendships and sense of belonging found in a small town create a world that people themselves can control. Purposeful sentences and strong conventions contribute to the overall effectiveness of the essay.