Timed Writing

Standards:

2. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.
3. Analyze how seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance address related themes and concepts of literature.
4. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Task:

We will read "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr. Then we will watch a video and read a news article that highlights a school where a social justice class is being removed from the curriculum.

Link to video and article: http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/seattle-school-district-orders-teacher-stop-teachi/nWgst/

Based on what you read and know about social justice, write a five-paragraph timed essay exploring King's point of view and how it could be applied to the news article.

Provide an introduction, three body paragraphs that provide specific evidence from King's letter—both explicitly and by making inferences, and a conclusion.

You will be graded with a holistic rubric that should help prepare you for how you will be graded on the writing portion of the PSAE.

Criteria:

- Explores the author's point of view and purpose in the text and analyzes how the author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view and purpose.
- Address complexity by examining the news article in light of Martin Luther King's letter.
- Connect King's letter to the theme of social justice seamlessly.
- Develop ideas clearly, specifically, and logically.
- Fully elaborate on your ideas.
- Maintain a clear focus throughout the essay.
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Write an organized and logical essay with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Show a strong command of language.
- Write free of errors.

Rubric: Each point is worth 5 points.
So a 6 essay will score 30/30.
A 5 essay will score a 25/30.
A 4 essay will score a 20/30.
A 3 essay will score a 15/30.
A 2 essay will score a 10/30.
A 1 essay will score a 5/30.
A 0 essay will score a 0/30.

Score = 6
Essays within this score range demonstrate effective skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows a clear understanding of the task. The essay explores the author's point of view and purpose in the text and analyzes how the author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view and purpose. The essay addresses complexity by examining the news article in light of Martin Luther King's letter. It connects King's letter to the theme of social justice seamlessly. Development of ideas is ample, specific, and logical. Most ideas are fully elaborated. A clear focus on the topic is maintained. Textual evidence is strongly used to convey the meaning, both explicitly and through making inferences. The organization of the essay is clear. Ideas are logically sequenced. The introduction and conclusion are effective, clear, and well developed. The essay shows a strong command of language. There are few, if any, errors to distract the reader.

Score = 5
Essays within this score range demonstrate competent skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows a clear understanding of the task. The essay explores the author's point of view or purpose in the text and analyzes how the author uses rhetoric. The essay shows recognition of complexity by partially examining the news article in light of Martin Luther King's letter. It connects King's letter to the theme of social justice. Development of ideas is specific and logical. Most ideas are elaborated. Focus on the topic is maintained. Textual evidence is used to convey the meaning, both explicitly and through making inferences. The organization of the essay is clear, although it may be predictable. Ideas are logically sequenced. The introduction and conclusion are clear and generally well developed. Language is competent. There may be a few errors, but they are rarely distracting.

Score = 4
Essays within this score range demonstrate adequate skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows an understanding of the task. The essay explores the author's point of view or purpose in the text and may analyze some rhetoric used. The essay may show some recognition of complexity by providing some examination of the news article in light of Martin Luther King's letter. The essay attempts to connect King's letter to the theme of social justice. Development of ideas is adequate, with some movement between explicit textual evidence and making inferences. Focus on the specific issue in the prompt is maintained throughout most of the essay. The organization of the essay is apparent but predictable. Some evidence of logical sequencing of ideas is apparent. The introduction and conclusion are clear and somewhat developed. Language is adequate. There may be some distracting errors, but they do not impede understanding.

Score = 3
Essays within this score range demonstrate some developing skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows some understanding of the task. The essay explores the author's point of view or purpose but does not analyze rhetoric used. The essay may acknowledge the connection between the news article and Martin Luther King's letter. Development of ideas is limited with little, if any, movement between general statements and explicit textual evidence. Focus on the general topic is maintained. The organization of the essay is simple. Ideas are logically grouped within parts of the essay, but there is little or no evidence of logical sequencing of ideas. An introduction and conclusion are clearly present but underdeveloped. Language shows a basic control. Errors may be distracting and may occasionally impede understanding.

Score = 2
Essays within this score range demonstrate inconsistent or weak skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows a weak understanding of the task. The essay may not explore the author's point of view or purpose, or the essay may begin to explore it but fail to maintain a discussion on it. There is little or no recognition of a connection between the news article and Martin Luther King's letter. The essay is thinly developed. If examples are given, they are trivial. Focus on the general topic may not be maintained. There is some indication of an organizational structure, and some logical grouping of ideas within parts of the essay is apparent. An introduction and conclusion are present but minimal. Errors may be frequently distracting and may sometimes impede understanding.

Score = 1
Essays within this score range show little or no skill in responding to the task.

The essay shows little or no understanding of the task. If the essay explores the author's point of view or purpose, it fails to convey reasons to support it. The essay is minimally developed. There is no recognition of a connection made between the news article and Martin Luther King's letter. Focus on the general topic is not maintained. There is little or no evidence of an organizational structure or of the logical grouping of ideas. If present, an introduction and conclusion are minimal. Errors may be frequently distracting and may significantly impede understanding.

Score = 0
Blank or Off-Topic