

B.E.S.T. Writing Anchor Sets

Spring 2025 – Grade 10



THE B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking

The Florida Department of Education is publishing the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Writing scoring anchors and annotations in support of its efforts to maintain transparency of the scoring process for Florida's statewide, standardized Writing assessments. These anchors can be used as a resource for Florida educators, schools, and districts regarding the scoring of student responses on the B.E.S.T. Writing assessments.

Each spring, students in grades 4–10 are administered a set of source texts and a writing prompt based on those sources. Students respond to one of two possible modes – expository or argumentative – and must draw on reading and writing skills while integrating information from the source materials in order to develop and draft a typed, cohesive essay response.

Anchor sets are used as a primary reference for expert scorers as they score student responses to prompts and sources provided during the spring B.E.S.T. Writing administration. Essays selected for the anchor demonstrate a range of skill levels within each scorepoint on the B.E.S.T. Writing rubric. A bulleted annotation follows each response to explain the prominent characteristics of the response in each domain – *Purpose and Structure*, *Development*, and *Language* – described in the rubric. As scorers read student responses, they use the anchor to help determine which scorepoint best fits a response holistically.

As with all assessment content, papers selected for the anchor set are reviewed by multiple committees of Florida educators and include members of the *Just Read, Florida!* office and State Regional Literacy Directors (SRLDs). After these meetings, the state's scoring subcontractor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), and the Department's English Language Arts (ELA) content teams assemble final materials for scorers.

All responses are scored holistically; however, responses at any grade level that do not include source citation cannot earn a score higher than 2 in the *Development* domain.

For more information about the B.E.S.T. Writing assessments, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. For questions about this document, please contact Assessment@fldoe.org.

Florida Anchor Key

Grade 10 EXP		Item #37661			Florida Caves
Paper	P/S	D	L		Lithocode
A-1	1	1	1		770002037156
A-2	1	1	1		770002039322
A-3	1	1	1		770004673678
A-4	2	2	2		770002032859
A-5	2	2	2		770004661643
A-6	2	2	2		770005234075
A-7	2	2	2		770002031269
A-8	2	2	2		770005318720
A-9	3	3	3		770005336032
A-10	3	3	3		770005284860
A-11	3	3	3		770002031308
A-12	3	3	3		770002032959
A-13	3	3	3		770005255859
A-14	4	4	4		770004703606
A-15	4	4	4		770002057054
A-16	4	4	4		770004785780

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

1/1/1

To start the cave are so important because we can explore what they got, and sometimes can benefits like on the paragraph 11 of the source 1 says "beneath the surface of the warm florida earth" In that's so cool because help the nature on florida

Secondly, is so important how that formed and is very interesting because with help of the nature the cave is formed, how say on the paragraph 26 source 2 "The caves were formed from the hard shells of Animals that lived in on of these seas" that help us to determined how these created

To continue, the expedition are so interesting because, the people can knows caves woh never see before and this gonna be funny for much people, how say in the paragraph 38 source " The team set depth and distance record for underwater cave diving, bottoming out at 360 feet " that's means is so big the cave and we can explore but with a Professional.

RF-6

1 – Purpose/Structure – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- The response is vaguely on task but lacks focus on a particular central idea (*To start the cave are so important because we can explore what they got, and sometimes can benefits like...*).
- No real organizational structure or plan is evident. The response lacks an introduction or conclusion and consists of a few random ideas from the source that include brief statements about the topic (caves forming from shells, records set by the team for underwater diving).
- Attempts to transition minimally connect the ideas (*Secondly; To continue*).
- Brevity is a factor as there is insufficient writing to demonstrate knowledge of purpose, structure, or task.

1 – Development – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A lack of understanding is demonstrated.
- Elaboration attempts are minimal and confusing (*that's means is so big the cave and we can explore but with a Professional*).
- Attempts to use text evidence from the sources are minimal and weak (*The caves were formed from the hard shells of Animals that lived...; The team set depth and distance record for underwater cave diving...*), but proper citations are included (*paragraph 11 of the source 1 says...*).
- Brevity is a factor as there is insufficient writing to demonstrate knowledge of elaboration, topic, or sources.

1 – Language – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Vocabulary and word choice, where not source derived, are vague and imprecise (*gonna be funny for much people*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic and confusing. Sentence formation issues are present and consist mainly of comma splices and run-on sentences.
- A high density and variety of errors are present in usage (*are* for *is*; *much* for *many*; *how say* for *said*; *determined* for *determine*), spelling (*woh* for *who*), punctuation (commas missing before quotes, end of sentence punctuation), and capitalization (*florida*; *Professional*).
- There is not enough original writing to establish or maintain tone or voice.
- Brevity with errors demonstrates a lack of command of Language skills.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF



Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

1/1/1

The article makes it sound like it was in the ocean. So on that note there is fossils, remaining corals, and it would be most down in the caves. Since it's underground it has to be colder than what the temperature was out of the cave or warmer if it was cold out. The article thought that since it was dry outside that it will be dry inside the cave, but it's not. The cave is actually really moist. The flood is what made the cave because of all the dust and sand floated to the surface. The cave has rocks growing upside down with water dripping off. Not like a waterfall but like a faucet that you didn't turn off all the way. The cave water is like a healing potion. So the water is kind like over amnesia. If you touch the rocks constantly it will turn black and eventually break off. The reason why it does that it's because of the oil from your hand will kill it. It's like if you burn yourself how the skin peels off in blisters. Another reason is the cave is not immune to the oils your body has. It would be different if it was made by humans or animals. Speaking of animals the cave has a lot of mammals, animals in general, and insects. The insects are like what you find in the dark. Forensics spiders, roaches, mosquitos, and so on in so forth. The mammals they have are bats, foxes, possums, and some times bears. The other animals they have are owls, mice, and any animal that is active at night. They did have water before. That is how the cave got its fossils. You will see fossils of the shells, coral, and the bones of the animals that were in there. That is probably why we are at sealevel now. My theory is that Florida came from the ocean. Just think about it, that is why we see fossils everywhere. In the caves and underground. Mainly underground. In the cave it's very rare to see the animals now because the humans made it a tourist trap. I know I went off topic but that is all I have to say about the cave the article has to offer.

RF-15

1 – Purpose/Structure – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- The response is on topic (caves); however, little awareness of the task is demonstrated as an identifiable central idea is absent.
- An organizational structure or plan is minimally evident. Ideas are presented in a random order (location of fossils, temperature, rocks growing upside down, likening water in a cave to a healing potion, effect on our immune system, animals that may reside in caves, theory of Florida's origins).
- Transitional phrasing is used (*Sence* (since); *but*; *Another reson*) but does little to connect the ideas, advancing more like a stream of consciousness.
- No real introduction or conclusion are present to provide a sense of organization or completeness.

1 – Development – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Development demonstrates minimal understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration consists of unclear and loosely related ideas (*The cave is like a healing potion. So the water is kind of like ower amunsistume; it's very rare to see the animals now becues the humanes made it a torus trap*) demonstrating a lack of knowledge of elaborative techniques.
- Vague source ideas are minimally integrated as much of the information presented becomes confusing in the attempts to expand on it (*...thought that seance it was dry outside that it will be dry inside the cave...cave is acsult (actually) reall most (moist). The flood is what made the cave because of all the dust and sand flouted to the serface*).
- No appropriate citations are present.

1 – Language – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Vocabulary and word choice are vague and unclear (*...it would be most down in the caves*).
- Sentence structure is confusing due to fragments (*Forensans (for instance) spiders, rochis, mosito, and so on in soforth.; Manly under ground.*).
- The high density of errors contained in this response obscures meaning at times. In addition to errors in sentence formation, there are numerous errors in spelling (*fosals, ascult* (actually); *animals, advinchaly* (eventually); *amune; baers; mamals; posumes; therey; articl*), usage (*then* (than); *allot* (a lot); *u*), as well as errors in punctuation (missing end punctuation, commas after introductory phrase, and apostrophe errors).
- Tone and voice do not elevate the response beyond the score of 1.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

1/1/1

do you ever want to go in a cave in forlida yes you can in florida under ground not just water they got under ground caves they you can expouler and yes they got water under them the caves are dried up water so it got fussuils of fish in them and they could be 1 million years old yes it could be dangres if you dont know what your doing its still cool that florida have caves that you can go down there and get hurt

Florida underground caves can be dangrouse to go down in them and or exploure them in source 1 paragraph 20 (i am thankful for the pads on my knees and elbows as i slither across the wet floor) that basicly mean you are going to hurt yourself in the caves and if you get hurt badly your screwed and also that it not safe the floor can cloaps when you are on it you got to stay safe with cave diving

in florida you possiby will have a house or a store on top of these caves source 1 paragraph 25 (they are working over a dry cave and when they put the piling on the ground they just disappeared) so at anytime you could just fall threw the floor or when your building something it can be dangruess for your co worker or your workes they could get badly injured or they can possliby die so safty is top key

in yet florida caves are a ntire buty all lot of these caves have fossils they are from dead animals or people source 1 paragraph 27 (by the geologist are remains representing cemeteries of the past) so these caves hold animals that died years and years and years ago and they formed up in the cave under florida from years and year ago

i still think that cave diving is dasngruse but ypu got to have the good stuff to travle far downen if you dont know what you doing you can get hurt by doing it but its still cool that florida have caves but you might die and its cool to do them the sights and what they can leave behind.

RF-121

1 – Purpose/Structure – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A lack of awareness is demonstrated with the central idea focus split between danger (*...it could be dangres*) and fossils (*...it got fussuils of fish in them...*). Most of the essay is focused on the dangers of caves, an idea given only brief mention in the passage set, not the focus of it.
- Little discernible organizational structure is present as the ideas used are somewhat disconnected.
- Transition use is minimal (*still; but*) and confusing at times (*in yet*).
- An introduction is present, but the ideas are listed randomly, with the focus on dangers of caving (caves...underground not just water; can explore; fossils; danger). The conclusion is mainly commentary about the impression of caving and provides little sense of closure for the essay (*its still cool that florida have caves but you might die and its cool to do them sights and what they can leave behind*).

1 – Development – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Minimal understanding of the topic and development is demonstrated.
- Elaboration consists mainly of ineffective commentary (*that basicly mean you are going to hurt yourself...; so at anytime you could just fall threw the floor...*), demonstrating lack of knowledge of elaborative techniques.
- Source evidence is integrated in a repetitive manner (*source 1 paragraph 20 (i am thankful for the pads on my knees...); (source 1 paragraph 27 (by the geologist are remains...)*).
- Appropriate citations are present (*source 1 paragraph 25*).

1 – Language – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic (*ypu got to have the good stuff; its cool*).
- Sentence structure is confusing due to punctuation not being used, except for one period the end.
- A density and severity of errors are present in usage (*got* for *have*; *have* for *has*; *mean* for *means*; *your* for *you're*; *you* for *your*), punctuation (end of sentence; commas after introductory word or phrase and before quotes); capitalization (beginning of sentences; proper names (*florida*); the pronoun *I*); spelling (*forlida*; *expouler*; *dryed*; *fussuils*; *dangrouse*; *dowen*; *cloaps*; *nture* (natural); *buty*; *travle*). These errors demonstrate a lack of command of English conventions and rise to a level that impacts understanding.
- Tone and voice are inappropriate (*good stuff; cool; your screwed*).

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

2/2/2

You wouldn't expect there to be caves in Florida, but there are, and that's why it's important to explore them. It is important to explore Florida's caves because they're fun and educational, and they affect our landscape.

Firstly, it is important to explore Florida's caves because they're fun and educational. For example, Hutcheson says, "And so we traveled all over Marion County looking for the holes in the ground to explore." He talks about how exciting it is to go around looking for caves, and that's not something you can do anywhere, so we need to take advantage of that. In addition, he says, "For me, the rewards of all this are...in getting to places in the Earth few human beings have ever seen.." Going places unknown to most people is an incredible experience. For students to be able to explore a whole new world that they probably wouldn't have known before is a once in a lifetime opportunity. We need to explore Florida's natural caves because it provides a fun and educational experience for everyone.

Secondly, it is important to explore Florida's natural caves because they affect our surroundings. For example, in the article Descent Into an Eerie Underworld, it says, "Florida is underlaid with the karst geology that helps create water-filled caves, springs, and sinkholes." Caves are a major part of what makes up Florida's landscape, so it is important to teach young students about them. Caves have a bigger part in our day to day lives than we know, so it wouldn't hurt to include Florida's caves in our curriculum to encourage students to explore them. It is important to explore Florida's caves because it provides students with an important educational experience.

In conclusion, it is important for students to explore Florida's natural caves because they're fun and educational, and they affect the landscape of our state.

RF-27

2 – Purpose/Structure – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is provided in the intro yet insufficiently sustained (*It is important to explore Florida's caves because they're fun and educational, and they affect our landscape*).
- Organizational structure is inconsistent, disrupting the advancement of ideas. Supporting ideas are grouped around getting to places few have seen before and how caves affect the landscape.
- Formulaic transitional phrasing attempts to connect ideas externally (*Firstly; Secondly; In conclusion*) and internally (*In addition; For example*).
- Introduction and conclusion are simplistic and ineffective. The brief introduction includes the central idea, and the conclusion repeats that idea (*it is important for students to explore Florida's natural caves because they are fun and educational, and they affect the landscape of our state*).

2 – Development – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Incomplete understanding of the topic is represented with development.
- Elaboration consists of ineffective commentary on the source, rather than expanding it (*...exciting it is to go around looking for caves; Going places unknown to most people is an incredible experience*).
- Evidence is weakly integrated (*Hutcheson says; he says; it says*).
- Although an appropriate citation is present (*In the article Descent Into an Eerie Underworld, It says*), other Development considerations do not warrant a higher Development score.

2 – Language – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic and repetitive, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*It is Important to explore; it is Important to explore; it is Important...*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled with some variety.
- In the limited sample of original writing, there are a number of spelling errors (*edauational; something; encoursg; unkown; lportant; imporant*) demonstrating a partial command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice are somewhat simplistic.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

2/2/2

Have you ever wondered what the underground world is like? Well, in the articles, "Florida Cave Systems," "Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland" and "Dark Passage: A journey with Florida's Cave Divers" the authors state that some of many values of exploring Florida's cave systems are you get to explore unknown places, and we get to learn about the life of the people who lived before us.

Firstly, we get to explore unknown places and the beauties they hold. In source 1 paragraph 15, Belleville says "I look closely on the walls, tilting my head so my helmet light shines directly on the surface. Embedded in the rock are perfectly formed fossils of sand dollars and sea urchins, left behind from Florida's sea-bottom past." This shows that some of the beauties lay in the walls rather than sticking out. In the article "Florida Cave Systems," Belleville states that "The sight must be a surreal one-eight heads topped with lights, floating single-file through a tunnel that never sees the light of day, accompanied by blind crayfish and walled in by rock made of accient sea creatures (19)." This proves that even deep underground, where there isnt much light for animals and plants to survive, there are still many views that will leave you in awe. To wrap this up, exploring unknown places can leave you speechless with the beauties they hold.

To continue, we get to learn about the life of the people who lived before us. According to source 2, "Experts, who know how to read stories told in the designs on Native American pottery, state that the caves were known to the Native Americans of this section long before the coming of the Spaniards (Vernon 29)." This means that after many many years, we finally get to learn about those whom ruled the grounds long before we were born. In comparison, Vernon mentions in paragraph 30 that past expeditions against the Native Americans by Andrew Jackson lead to the Natives concealing themselves within these underground caves. This means that this lead to Natives needing the caves for cover and to live in so they can stay safe and not die. All in all, learning about the past of where you live and hearing some of the stories of the past of the people who lived there can be interesting.

In conclusion, getting to explore unknown places and the beauties of them, and getting to learn about the life of the people who lived before us are some of the many reason exploring caves can have an important value. Would you want to go explore the underground world?

RF-28

2 – Purpose/Structure – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is identified in the opening (*...some of the many values of exploring Florida's cave systems are you get to explore unknown places, and we get to learn about the life of the people who lived before us*) yet insufficiently sustained within the task.
- The organizational structure is repetitive, disrupting the advancement of ideas. Paragraphs follow a formulaic and repetitive pattern: topic sentence, citation, source information, attempt at elaboration.
- Basic and repetitive transitions attempt to connect ideas but do little to aid progression. External transitions are basic (*Firstly; To continue; In conclusion*), and internal transitions are repetitive (*This shows; This proves; This means; This means*).
- The introduction is simplistic and ineffective as it consists of a rhetorical question, citations, and the central idea. Also ineffective, the conclusion repeats the central idea and ends with a rhetorical question.

2 – Development – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Development demonstrates an incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Ineffective elaborative techniques are demonstrated as ideas used are mainly a weak observation of the source support (*This shows that some of the beauties lay in the walls rather than sticking out*).
- Evidence is related to the topic but partially integrated (*In source 1 paragraph 15, Belleville says; In the article "Florida Cave Systems," Belleville states that; Vernon mentions in paragraph 30*).
- Although appropriate citations are present, other Development considerations do not warrant a higher Development score.

2 – Language – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas.
- Sentence structure is somewhat simplistic, demonstrating a lack of grade-appropriate language facility (*This means that this lead to Natives needing the caves for cover and to live in so they can stay safe and not die*).
- An inconsistent command of conventions is demonstrated. The writing that is not derived from the source, contains errors in punctuation (contraction apostrophes), usage (*lead* for *led*), spelling (*acessible*), and sentence formation.
- Tone and voice are attempted but fairly basic and do not elevate the overall Language score (*exploring unkown places can leave you speechless with the beauties they hold*).

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

2/2/2

There are many places in the world where humans haven't explored yet, luckily for people living in Florida they get to explore caves that nobody has been thorough before. Many cave divers, take time to explore these vast and beautiful pieces of nature, sometimes divers even capture their exploration on video to share to the world. These caves have evolved throughout history and may not be the best that it used to be but they are still a sight to see. Florida's cave systems are a beautiful piece of nature that should be explored for its history, geology and mystery's that it has to offer.

Florida's cave systems isn't just some huge hollow rock that divers explore, they have history that dates back to the Native Americans. Prior to the invasion of the Spaniards, Native Americans used caves for multiple uses such as pottery, hunting and fleeing from enemy troops. Native Americans used the vast caves to their advantage to hide many people in there while under enemy fire or if heavily wounded. As stated in Source 2: Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland, "During Andrew Jackson's punitive expedition against the Native Americans in 1818, a large band of Native Americans escaped from his soldiers by concealing themselves within the underground caves." Native Americans also used the caves to make pottery that helped them survive. Informed by Source 2: Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland, "According to archaeologist..., Ashes from fires, dead for many years, flint arrowheads, and animal bones have also been found."

One of the main reasons that cave divers and geologists explore these pieces of nature is for its geography and how it's changed over the years. Wakulla Springs is the largest and deepest underwater cave system in the United States, it is big enough to fit a four-story building in it. The cave splits into three large passages, filled with limestone that dates back 26 million years ago, and fossils that date back to the Native Americans. When divers dive into the water in these caves, they swim about 2 1/2 miles to explore every last depth of the cave. Explained in Source 3: Dark Passage: A Journey with Florida's Cave Divers, "The expedition...was like a page out of science-fiction" There are dangers that come with it such as oxygen capacity, but there is no evidence that oxygen and nitrogen poisoning would effect the divers during their expedition in this cave.

In conclusion, Florida's cave systems are a beautiful piece of nature that should be explored for its history, geology and mystery's that it has to offer. Native Americans used the caves for pottery, hunting, and hiding from enemy troops, the geology includes 285 feet deep water to explore the caves in. Even if somebody is a little interested, it can turn into a job, that's what happened Eric Hitchenson who explores about 2-3 caves a day. Finally, quoted from Source 3: Dark Passage: A Journey with Florida's Cave Divers, "Bill Stone said, with typical explorer aplomb, "No one has ever been in this place, so we have no idea what lies ahead of us . . . Show me where else man can do that on Earth today".

RF-173

2 – Purpose/Structure – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is provided but insufficiently sustained within the task (*Florida's cave systems are a beautiful peace of nature that should be explored for it's history, geology, and mystery's that it has to offer*).
- The organizational structure is inconsistent. Ideas are grouped around two ideas (history and geology).
- Transitions attempt to connect ideas but lack purpose and variety. There is some sentence-to-sentence continuity of thought, and topic sentences are used to identify each chunk, but transitions are limited to simple conjunctions with little variety (*but; also; and; such as*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present but ineffective. The introduction includes an unusual interpretation of the source (*caves have evolved...and may not be the best that it use to be*) along with some context and a central idea. The conclusion repeats the central idea and summarizes parts of the essay but adds a new thought from the source (*...if somebody is a little interested, it can turn into a job...*).

2 – Development – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Development demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the central idea but relies heavily on sources without sufficient extension. Body paragraphs include relevant text but attempts to elaborate lack sufficient original development of these ideas (*Native Americans used the vast caves to there advantage to hid many people in there...*). Some development demonstrates a bit of original thinking but indicates a misunderstanding of source material (*There are dangers that come with it such as oxygen capacity, but there is no evidence that oxygen and nitrogen poisoning would effect divers...*).
- Evidence is related to the topic but partially integrated.
- Although appropriate citations are present, other Development considerations do not warrant a higher Development score.

2 – Language – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are imprecise and basic overall, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas. Language usage relies heavily on source material for expression.
- Sentence structure is partially controlled. There are some attempts at sentence complexity, which occasionally result in errors (comma splices).
- A partial command of standard English conventions is demonstrated with inconsistent word usage (*diver* for *divers*; *peace* for *piece*; *isn't* for *aren't*; *there* for *their*; *hid* for *hide*), punctuation (commas errors, comma splice), capitalization (*finally*), and spelling (*beatiful*; *caputure*; *evovled*; *poioning*; *expores*; *fianlly*).
- Tone and voice are mostly appropriate.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

2/2/2

The exploration of the caves in Florida can be a great help in discovering new things. It's like eating something you have never tried before and you discover that you like it and see the benefit in eating it. The Florida cave system's are very valuable because new things can be found and much more things to discover that perhaps people have never seen before.

According to source 1 paragraph 12 it states that "The rock that surrounds us has been chiseled by centuries of a slightly acidic water flow through limestone." This shows that these caves have been here for a very long time even centuries of time which shows that exploration of the Florida cave system can be helpful in the way of finding out how the cave was created and the origins of the cave and how it tells us what has been happening throughout the years. The rock that was found in this cave was washed up upon by acidic water through the limestone that was also there which could mean that it took a long time for the rock to de-materialize into what it is now. Also in source 1 paragraph 17 it says "Tiny albino crayfish whose ancestors entered the cave system through a distant spring or sinkhole, filter through the water." This means that little creatures entered this cave hundreds of years ago and they still live there up to this day which leads me to believe that if that cave had not been there those crayfish might have not been discovered. This is why the exploration of Florida cave systems are important and need to be done.

The importance of the cave system is that without many of these caves things that were discovered and other things that we have today might not have been here without the discovery of the creatures and artifacts hidden within the caves. In source 2 paragraph 1 the author says "Florida is truly a child of the sea, since all the rocks composing its land were formed directly on the ocean bottoms or by streams emptying along the shores." Which means that Florida was basically born on the ocean floor and has been that way for centuries and will not change. Most things like fossils or limestone were found in caves hidden deep in Florida where the ocean is and near the shore lines. Also in source 2 paragraph 2 it says that "These shells, called 'fossils' by the geologist, are remains representing cemeteries of the past." This means that the discovery of fossils yet again were through the Florida cave system and without exploring the cave some fossils that are known today would not exist to us. In the caves many things can be found like crayfish, fossils, limestone, and many more that maybe some people may not know about. It is essential that we have people use their time to research and discover new things within the caves of Florida.

In Conclusion the exploration of the Florida Cave System is important overall because new things could be discovered and we could relive things of the past such as fossils and find out what old creatures looked like and possibly find new creatures in there as well. Without the exploration of the cave system many things that we know today would not have been known and people must surely be grateful for the deeds that these explorers have done for us.

RF-19

2 – Purpose/Structure – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is provided but insufficiently sustained within the task (*The Florida cave system's are very valuable because new things can be found and much more things to discover that perhaps have never seen before*).
- Organizational structure follows the first two sources, limiting the advancement of ideas.
- Transitional strategies to connect ideas within the paragraphs are limited (*even; also; still; like; as well*). External transitioning is basic (*In conclusion*) and includes a citation (*According to source 1 paragraph 12 it states that*) and a topic sentence (*The importance of the cave system is that without many of these caves...*).
- A somewhat simplistic and repetitive introduction and conclusion are present. The introduction provides some context as well as the central idea. The conclusion is simplistic and includes some summary that repeats information about the importance exploring Florida's caves.

2 – Development – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- An incomplete understanding of the topic is demonstrated.
- Elaborative techniques attempt to develop the central idea but are limited and integrated in a repetitious manner (*this shows; which shows; which could mean; this means; this is why*).
- Evidence is partially integrated and somewhat supportive of the central idea (*"Tiny albino crayfish whos ancestors entered the cave system through a distant spring or sinkhole, flit through the water"*).
- Although appropriate citations are present (*in source 1 paragraph 17; in source 2 paragraph 1*), other Development considerations do not warrant a higher Development score.

2 – Language – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are imprecise and basic, demonstrating a partial command of expression of ideas.
- Sentence structure is partially controlled, showing language facility that is approaching grade appropriate.
- Partial command of basic conventions is shown with only occasional errors in punctuation (commas missing before quotations) and spelling (*logn; whos* for *whose*).
- Tone and voice are conversational and do not elevate the response beyond the score of 2.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

2/2/2

Getting lost in a dark cave may be scary but have you ever thought about the deep facts of these large caves? The caves have so much history from now and goes all the way back to the past from a long time ago. These caves are also extremely old and very large. In addition the amount of fossils and species that can be found in these caves are unbelievable. To understand the value of exploring Floridas cave systems you need to know all the deep facts.

Another important topic of these caves is the history. Since these caves are from long long ago you could imagine how much history is involved with the caves. All the way back to "...1693..." when Native Americans used these caves for "...shelter during their hunting trips into the region and for refuge from their enemies." (source 2). They have also discovered "...small broken pieces of Native American pottery." (source 2), in some of the smaller caves. These cave even date back to "...Andrew Jackson's punitive expedition against the native americans in 1818..." (source 2), when the Native Americans escaped from the soldiers "...concealing themselves within the underground caves." (source 2). Overall these caves show so much value in the sharing the history from long ago in the world we live in today.

The cave systems are older and larger than you may think. The limestone in some of these caves are about "26-million-year-old limestone." (source 3) That is insane, its even incredibly hard to think about how long ago that was. They are also very large; "During the exploration of the tunnels over the next three weeks, the team set depth and distance records for uderwater cave diving, bottoming out at 360 feet in one passageway while penetrating another for 4,500 feet." (source 3). Therefore these cavers explore how old and how large these caves can actually be.

Lastly these caves have very interesting species and fossils to be discovered;"In fact, the rocks visible in the park area at Florida Caverns, near Marianna, Florida, and in caves were formed from the hard shells of animals that lived in one of these seas. As the animals died, their shells accumulated on the sea bottoms, where they were covered by other shells and hardened into lime rock." (source 2) When exploring the caves you may be "...accompanied by blind crayfish and walled in by rock made of ancient sea creatures." (source 1). These discoveries that divers bring back could teach us about "...plant life of earlier ages..." (source 3), or what plants or species that were living there long ago. These caves and divers really help us discover the different species and fossils.

Overall the caves are a very valuble part of Floridas history. These cavers show the importance of just how valuble everything about these caves are. These caves date back to 26 million years ago. Which may feel like forever. Its unbelievable that these caves are still around. The different species and fossils are very important for learning about the history of these caves. Therefore the value of exploring the Floridas cave systems is very important.

RF-40

2 – Purpose/Structure – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is more clearly stated in the conclusion (*Overall the caves are a very valuable part of Floridas history. These cavers show the importance of just how valuable everything about these caves are*).
- Organizational structure is inconsistent with an uneven advancement of ideas. Ideas are grouped around the history of the caves, the age and size of the caves, and the discovery of different species and fossils.
- Transitions attempt to connect ideas but begin with an awkward transition to start the first body paragraph (*Another important topic of these caves is the history as the transition into the first body paragraph*) and are fairly basic throughout (*but; In addition; therefore; Lastly; Overall*).
- The introduction previews the plan of organization. The conclusion wraps up the ideas used along with a somewhat simplistic statement about the importance of exploring Florida’s caves (*the value of exploring the Floridas cave systems is very important*).

2 – Development – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Development demonstrates an incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the central idea but is mostly ineffective and relies heavily on source material (*its even incredibly hard to think about how long ago that was; Therefore these cavers explore how old and how large these caves can actually be*).
- Evidence is supportive of the central idea but relied upon for the bulk of support.
- Appropriate citations are used (*source 2*).

2 – Language – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Word choice and vocabulary are somewhat imprecise and demonstrate partial command of expression of ideas (*scary; old and large*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic at times and partially controlled (*These caves and divers really help us discover the different species and fossils.*) There are occasional sentence formation issues such as fragments (*Which may feel like forever*).
- Standard English conventions are mostly controlled with a few errors in spelling (*valuble* for *valuable*) and punctuation (missing commas after introductory phrase; missing apostrophes).
- Tone and voice are informal and nonacademic at times (*That is insane...*).

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

3/3/3

A whole other world lives deep beneath Florida, filled with stretches of rocky ballrooms and vast underwater cave systems. These cave formations and caverns are composed of fossils of sea creatures and limestone, which were left behind from fluctuations in Florida's sea level in the past. These systems lying below our feet stretch for miles and hold many opportunities to learn and explore. Exploring these Florida cave systems is incredibly valuable as they can provide us with important research, teach us history, and show us places we have never seen before.

Through the exploration of Florida cave systems we can gain high amounts of research and discoveries. For instance, Source 3 says divers researching cave systems "brought back valuable bone fossils, took samples of sediment with prehistoric pollens to determine plant life of earlier ages, and projected water flow" during their expedition in Wakulla Springs. These explorers were able to collect incredible scientific data and samples during their deep-dive and exploration of the deep underwater tunnels, which would have never been collected before. Along with this research, Source 3 states that "they also recovered several specimens of albino crayfish unique to the caves." This species was previously unknown and without the exploration of these systems, would have stay undiscovered. Exploration of these caves has resulted in amazing scientific findings and continued exploration will extend these discoveries and create even more possibilities to discover incredible things.

Another benefit of exploring Florida cavern systems is its ability to teach us valuable history. Source 2 states that "there is considerable evidence that Native Americans, even prior to 1693, had been in the habit of using Florida Caverns and caves in the vicinity of shelter." Exploring these caves has led to insight onto history from hundreds of years ago and shreds of Native American past that would have remained unknown. These caves not only hold human history, but also explain Florida's geological history. Source 1 says that "embedded in the rocks are perfectly formed fossils of sand dollars and sea urchins, left behind from Florida's sea-bottom past". These cavern rocks show that Florida was at once and many times underwater, along with holding the ability to explain centuries of history of Earth's geological past. The earth's rocky and human history is attached to these caverns and systems, making exploration incredibly valuable and rewarding.

Not only is the exploration of caves valuable scientifically and historically, but they also provide a chance to discover places never seen before. During the exploration of the Wakulla tunnels more than two and a half miles were charted and "the team set depth and distance records for underwater cave diving", as said in Source 3. The expedition was described as like science-fiction, the views and findings were something that was never truly seen before and unlike this world. Source 1 further illuminates this as they describe the reason they explore is not only for the "adrenaline-pumping rushes-of which there are plenty- but in getting to places in the earth few human beings have ever seen." The rewards and value are not only in the climax and anticipation, but found truly in the unbelievable experience that miles of cave exploration brings.

Florida cave systems are not only incredibly interesting and beautiful, but the exploration of them can bring very high value. This value is brought through the possibilities of scientific research, the teaching of history, and the ability to explore places previously never seen before. These formations are unlike this world and bring endless chances to learn and explore that should not be wasted.

RF-30

3 – Purpose/Structure – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Exploring these Florida cave systems is incredibly valuable as they can provide us with important research, teach us history, and show us places we have never seen before*).
- Logical organizational structure allows for the advancement of the central idea. The framework stated in the opening is used to organize the response (*can gain scientific findings/discoveries; teach us history; allow us to discover places*).
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs (*For instance; Along with; even more; Another benefit; These caves not only hold human history, but also explain but also...; Not only is the exploration of caves valuable scientifically and historically, but they also provide...*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction gives some context for the central idea as well as a preview of the ideas used as support. The concise conclusion contributes to a sense of completeness by clearly restating the points made in the essay to solidify the central idea.

3 – Development – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Logical development demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration is provided with appropriate expansion of ideas and paraphrasing (*Exploration of these caves has resulted in amazing scientific findings and continued exploration will extend these discoveries and create even more possibilities to discover incredible things; Exploring these caves has led to insight onto history from hundreds of years ago and shreds of Native American past that would have remained unknown*).
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is used and lends credibility to the central idea.
- Evidence is appropriately cited throughout (*as said in Source 3; Source 1 further illuminates*).

3 – Language – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of academic vocabulary demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*opportunities; undiscovered; insight; illuminates; climax*).
- Varied sentence structure demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility (*These explorers were able to collect incredible scientific data and samples during their deep-dive and exploration of the deep underwater tunnels, which would have never been collected before*).
- Although a few errors in usage (*stay* for *stayed*; *onto* for *into*) and punctuation (commas before quotes, possessive apostrophe) are present, overall conventions demonstrate grade-appropriate command.
- An overall academic tone and voice are appropriate for the overall exposition.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

3/3/3

Florida is the last place one may look when planning their next cave expedition. It takes many people by surprise when they discover what really lies underneath Florida's surface. Hundreds miles of cave systems rest underground and supply explorers with surreal experiences, history, and scientific discoveries.

Initially, exploring Florida's cave systems provides an array of surreal experiences from the exquisite placement of fossils that include sand dollars and sea urchins, almost as if someone perfectly layed them to rest along the walls of the cave, to the realisation that if someone were bound to explore these difficult to reach places, they are only a few of many humans that have ever seen these landmarks with their naked eye. Author of source 1 mentions, "The sight must be a surreal one-eight heads topped with lights, floating single-file through a tunnel that never sees the light of day, accompanied by blind crayfish and walled in by rock made of ancient sea creatures." The author illustrates the astonishing creatures that call these caves their home. Just from admiring the animals skill to produce its own light the author is in awe by an incredible creature that would not ever be found on the surface. Although the cave itself is an undenyng beauty, the creatures that occupy the caves add to the enchanting experience of exploring what lies underground Florida's surface. Appriciating all what nature provides should go beneath the surface.

Furthermore, Florida's cave systems hold thousands of moments in history. The author of source 2 explains how these nature made shelters were used as refuge in times of need by stating, "Several times in history, Florida Caverns natue-made shelter-was used as a refuge from armed forces. During Andrew Jckson's punitive expedition against the Native Americans in 1818, a large band of Native Americans escaped from his soldiers by concealing themselves within the underground caves." These natural land marks supplied a safe place of cover when seeking imediate refuge. These landmarks deserved to be valued for keeping people safe, especially because it was provided by nature. It is unexpected how a landmark like caves can provide people with such protection, but without it many innocent lives could of been lost all the way from Native Americans to the women and children that seeked shelter whilst battle. Just how important people get recognized for playing big roles in history, landmarks should be appreciated for their signifagance aswell.

Lastly, cave systems have allowed many scientific discoveries which in all help the human population with new technology, medicines, and more. As divers bring new discoveries to the surface more of our earth is explored helping achieve advancements in humanity. The author of source 3 states, "Divers brought back valuable bone fossils, took samples of sediment with prehistoric pollens to determine plant life of earlier ages, and projected water flow with dyes and isotope tracing." Making these new discoveries, reveals more about earth allowing the world to improve and continue in the greater good. More dicoveries means more knowlegde not just about the world but how to help humans aswell. Discoveries in Florida's cave systems may be small compared to others but every little discovery is a part of a bigger story for the same outcome. These new discoveries path the way for better future for the world and the human beings that occupy it. Caves play an important part in future discoveries.

In all, Florida's cave systems play an important role in many aspects. The value of exploring them is important for not only the explore's experiences but the history and scientific dicoveries it supplies aswell.

RF-171

3 – Purpose/Structure – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Hundreds of miles of cave systems rest underground and supply explorers with surreal experiences, history, and scientific discoveries*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the central idea. The three ideas outlined in the introduction provide focus for the response (*surreal experiences, history, and scientific discoveries*).
- Transitional strategies along with topic sentences are used to connect idea between paragraphs. Internal transitions are used purposefully (*Initially; Furthermore; Lastly; In all; Although; but without it; which in all; not just about; but*). Paragraph-ending sentences provide a thoughtful closing comment for the ideas contained in the paragraph (*Just how important people get recognized for playing important roles in history, landmarks should be appreciated for their significance as well*).
- Although both are concise, the introduction and conclusion contribute to logical organization and a sense of completeness. The introduction expresses surprise that there are caves under Florida's surface and states the plan for the essay. The conclusion reiterates that Florida's caves are important for the reasons detailed in the essay.

3 – Development – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Understanding of the topic is demonstrated through logical development.
- Adequate elaboration is provided with a combination of original writing to extend ideas from the source (*Making these new discoveries, reveals more about the earth allowing the world to improve and continue in the greater good*) and extension of ideas through paraphrase (*These natural landmarks supplied a safe place of cover when seeking immediate refuge*).
- Relevant evidence is integrated from multiple sources and lends support for the central idea.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*Author of source 1 mentions...*).

3 – Language – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Academic vocabulary is integrated, demonstrating a clear expression of ideas (*exquisite; surreal; astonishing; enchanting; moments; humanity*).
- Varied sentence structure demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility.
- Although there are errors present, mainly in spelling (*suprise; illustrautes; Apprieciating; realisation*) and in usage (*seeked* for *sought*), overall adequate command of conventions is demonstrated.
- Tone and voice are appropriate with an expression of awe at the potential of the Florida cave systems.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF



Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

3/3/3

People may think Florida is simply a beach vacation destination, but it is so much more. It is home to an abundance of caves, plentiful underground tunnels that reveal its history traced back centuries! Exploring these caves can lead to major discoveries and interactions with rare species of marine life that would make for a worthwhile adventure. The wonders that are hidden in these caves simply waiting to be explored call for astounding and commendable finds, both recent and historical.

For these Florida caves, it is not just a mass of dry crawlspace underground, rather underwater caves that are home to dozens of strange and extraordinary marine creatures that have made home in the waters of these caves. As seen from the eyes of an explorer, Billy Belleville, it details one of the creatures that take shelter in the cave's waters. "We stop in a large boulder-strewn room. The bottom is half-filled with clear, deep water. Tiny albino crayfish whose ancestors entered the cave system through a distant spring or sinkhole, filter through the water." (Source 1, Descent into an Eerie Underworld, paragraph 17). These creatures found in the cave systems are a wonder, surviving simply in these caves in which humans have only recently rediscovered. Just through their trek, this team of explorers encountered creatures that are the inhabitants of these dark caves, which some can never imagine inhabitable. Although these fantastic creatures are simply worth exploring the wondrous caves of Florida for, it doesn't end here for what lies concealed in the underground depths of Florida's caves.

Centuries ago, the Native Americans, inhabitants of the land, took shelter in these caves and left behind traces of their passings. Through what is stated by explorer Robert O. Vernon, it is clear it may have been the Native Americans who have been here long before we have, that have trekked through the same caves brave explorers encounter today. "There is considerable evidence that Native Americans, even prior to 1693, had been in the habit of using Florida Caverns and caves in the vicinity for shelter during their hunting trips into the region and for refuge from their enemies. In some of the smaller and dry caves there have been found potsherds, or small broken pieces of Native American pottery... Ashes from fires, dead for many years, flint arrowheads, and animal bones have also been found." (Source 2, Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland, paragraph 29). A connection can be made, just from exploring the same paths as previous inhabitants have previously done, to its rich and marvellous history. People can be connected and understand the history of these very cave systems of Florida and their value to explore.

Overall, the cave systems of Florida are filled with the history of the past and the present life of marine creatures which make the exploration of these caves vital. They contain much more wonders than people can comprehend, hidden deep under the surface of the Earth. The Earth contains many beautiful and astounding sights for people to explore. Its silent history can surpass any imagination with its special sights, such as the majestic underwater caves of Florida. Although there are these recent discoveries, they may not be final, but simply penultimate, for there may be more in the caves filled with history and delicate marine life, still undiscovered.

RF-2

3 – Purpose/Structure – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Exploring these caves can lead to major discoveries and interactions with rare species of marine life that would make for a worthwhile adventure*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the central idea. Two ideas provide focus for the response (*historical discoveries and extraordinary marine creatures*).
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs (*as seen...; rather; just through; although; a connection can be made; For these Florida caves; Centuries ago; Overall; It doesn't end here for what lays concealed in the underground depths of Florida's caves*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. In addition to the plan for the essay, the introduction begins by pointing out that the obvious draw to Florida (*a beach vacation destination*) is not the only point of interest—that caves are additional wonders to be explored while in Florida. The conclusion recaps some of the information learned from cave exploration and hints that there is more to be discovered (*discoveries, they may not be final, but simply penultimate*).

3 – Development – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Logical development demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- The central idea is supported with a mix of elaborative techniques, including a combination of original writing (*Just through their trek, this team of explorers encountered creatures that are inhabitants of these dark caves, which some can never imagine inhabitable*) and paraphrasing (*Through what is stated by Robert O. Vernon, it is clear it may have been the Native Americans who have been here long before we have, that have trekked through the same caves brave explorers encounter today*).
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is integrated and lends credibility to the exposition.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*Source 1, Descent Into an Eerie Underworld, paragraph 17*).

3 – Language – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Clear expression of ideas is demonstrated with integration of academic vocabulary and word choice (*abundance; commendable; extraordinary; trekked; vital; penultimate*).
- A variety of sentence structure demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility.
- Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling use demonstrates grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- An appropriate academic tone and voice enhance the essay.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

3/3/3

Florida has many impressive natural landmarks that have formed Florida's identity as we know it today. One of which are Florida's cave systems, which are some of the oldest and most unexplored in the world. These cave systems present great value for exploration for several reasons. One of which is their social, geological, and biological history; this is in addition to the cave's opportunities for discovery and adventure.

The history behind Florida's cave systems is sufficient enough evidence to prove its value for exploration in itself. The caves have not only rich geological and biological history but also a component of more recent American history as well. This can be shown in the article Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderlnd by Robert O. Vernon. The article explains, "Several times in history, Florida Caverns-a nature-made shelter- was used as a refuge from armed forces... during the War Between the States... while the battle was raging, women and children took refuge in Florida Caverns." This is just one of many examples of how Florida's cave systems have played an outstanding role in the history of not only our state, but the country itself. The evidence explains the value for exploring these cave systems because this historical context is reason for any Florida citizen to want to explore these caves just to be closer to the stories we read about in our history books. Another explanation for the history behind these caves is in the article Dark Passage: A Journey with Florida's Cave Divers, by Bill Belleville. This article shows, "They also recovered several specimens of albino crayfish unique to the caves... the Wakulla crayfish may be a previously unknown species that can live 100 years or more..." To elaborate, Florida's caves can not only reflect on old history but create more as well. The geological and biological findings that have come out of these caves are unlike any other across the globe. Anyone interested in this would see it fit to come explore these caves just to see these ancient critters and others like them. As explained, Florida's cave systems have great value for exploration because of the social, geological, and biological history that lies beneath the surface.

Another factor into why Florida's cave systems are so valued for exploration is the common craving for discovery and adventure by many people. "Thrill seeking" means to crave an experience that makes you feel adrenaline, a feeling that cave diving and exploration will most certainly give you. This along with wanting to go somewhere no other human has stepped foot on is great reason to explore Florida's cave systems. This is shown in the article Decent Into an Eerie Underworld, written by previously mentioned author Bill Belleville. In the article, the author is exploring a somewhat deep and difficult to navigate cave, after the exploration Belleville writes, "For me, the rewards in all of this are not just in the adrenaline-pumping rushes-of which there are plenty-but in getting to places in the earth few human beings have ever seen...." As the author thoughtfully explained, for him, the motivation behind exploring these dangerous caves far outweighs the possible worries climbing that into rock and water filled holes that are thousands of years old can bring. These extraordinary caves bring upon both adrenaline and more importantly the knowledge that you have now been to places no other man has touched. This point is also shown in the article Dark Passage: A Journey with Florida's Cave Divers by Bill Belleville. It finalizes, "Before the start of the expedition, Bill Stone said, with typical explorer aplomb, "No one has ever been in this place, so we have no idea what lies ahead of us... Show me where else man can do that on Earth today..." As Stone shows, these caves give explorers a chance to actually explore, to discover somewhere new, with no pre-made plans or maps. All the emotions that come along with that statement and experience show why the Florida cave systems are desired by many to be explored.

As explained, Florida's cave systems have great value and desire for exploration because of the rich history and opportunity for adventure that the caves present. Every person craves knowledge and understanding of the world around us and exploring these caves helps those who do so do just that. The history and exploration that these caves contain makes an explorer feel many emotions that make the experience hard to forget. The adrenaline, mystery, and discovery that our cave systems allow are why people have and will keep exploring them every day.

RF-20

3 – Purpose/Structure – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A task-focused central idea is generally maintained (*These cave systems present great value for exploration for several reasons. One of which is their social, geological, and biological history; this is in addition to the cave's opportunities for discovery and adventure*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the central idea. Ideas are organized around the history of Florida's cave systems (incorporating both the past uses of the caves by Native Americans and information about the Wakulla crayfish, a previously unknown species) and the value of Florida's cave exploration for discovery and adventure.
- Purposeful connection of ideas is made with transitional phrasing and strategies (*The caves have not only rich geological and biological history but also a component of more recent American history as well; This can be shown; not only; but; Another explanation; To elaborate; As explained; Another factor; This along with*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction provides context by likening the cave systems to other impressive Florida landmarks before detailing the central idea. The conclusion revisits the reasoning why the caves have great value and encourage the adventurer in each of us to explore (*Every person craves knowledge and understanding of the world around us and exploring these caves helps those who do...*).

3 – Development – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Logical development demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration adequately supports the central idea with a combination of original writing (*Florida's cave systems have played an outstanding role in the history of not only our state, but the country itself*) and paraphrasing (*As the author thoughtfully explained, for him, the motivation behind exploring these dangerous caves far outweighs the possible worries climbing that into rock and water filled holes that are thousands of years old can bring. These extraordinary caves bring upon both adrenaline and more importantly the knowledge that you have now been to places no other man has touched*) to support the central idea.
- Relevant evidence is integrated from multiple sources.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*by Robert O Vernon; Belleville writes; This is shown in the article Decent Into an Erle Underworld...*)

3 – Language – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Expression of ideas is clear with academic vocabulary and appropriate word choice (*impressive; sufficient enough evidence; historical context; common craving*).
- Grade-appropriate language facility is demonstrated with varied sentence structure.
- Overall, grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions is demonstrated with adequate use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and a few spelling errors (*intrested* for interested; *Erie* for Eerie; *adrenlllne* for adrenaline; *exoplore* for explore; *cantain* for contain *hsitory* for history).
- An academic tone and voice are appropriate for the response.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

3/3/3

Florida is most well known for its theme parks and beaches but not many know of its spectacular caves. The caves of Florida are unlike any in the other states. How connected it is to the water it interacts with it to create caves that are full of life and wonder. Caves in Florida are spectacular because of their mysterious and imaginative world, the captivating past it possesses and the beautiful visuals that go with it.

Florida's caves hold an air of mystery and storytelling to them, feeling like they are holding the keys to a locked treasure that explorers have to find for themselves. As Florida blended with its watery surroundings it changed, forming new caves and life unheard of anywhere else. That is why it can be hard to visualize just how grandiose it is. For example when Bill Belleville descended into one of Florida's caves, his mind was set onto the idea of a "Fred Flinstone" scenario; full of the same caves he's explored before but instead he soon got the feeling of "Orpheus descending into the underworld." (S1,P8). He viewed the cave more of a wild and different than others he explored. Instead of a regular cave it felt more of an unknown world, not seen before by human eyes. He talks about another of Florida's caves, the largest and deepest in the United States. He notes how the caves grabbed national attention; going on CBS News. They stated that the cave that they explored was the "last unexplored places on earth" (S3,P41). Florida's caves give us new ideas of how little we know about our world, the mysteries just under our noses or, under our feet.

Not only are caves in Florida great because of their grand mysteries but also because of their enriching past. Florida caves have pasts that are so engrained into the very being of the caves that they show themselves even in the walls. The walls are embedded with "perfectly formed fossils of sand dollars and sea urchins, left behind from Florida's sea-bottom past" (S1,P13). Florida shows its past at the very base of its existence; the ground. The fossils aren't the only way that we view our past but also from what we know from the exploring. As we explored the caves, we find remnants of the native Americans that once used the caves for "shelter during their hunting trips into the region and for refuge from their enemies" (S2,P29). We may not fully understand our past but because of exploring we can get an idea of what the caves meant back then and how they also protected the people who were living in the area. Florida Caverns acted as a way to shelter. Multiple times these were used to either protect native Americans against Andrew Jackson in 1818 or during the war between the states to protect soldiers, women and children (S2,P30). They share a part of history that we might not have gotten to learn otherwise and because of this history we can learn more from our past and understand it deeper.

Last but not least the visuals also provide reason to explore Florida's beautiful caves. As described by Bill Belleville while exploring the caves, "The sight must be a surreal one-eight heads topped with lights, floating single-file through a tunnel that never seems the light of day, accompanied by blind crayfish and walled in by rock made of ancient sea creatures" (S1,P19). The use of visuals gives an idea of how mystical caves in Florida really are, bursting with life and holding large remnants of what once was. The visuals of the largest cave in America aren't any different. As it is so large the visuals are just as giant. The crew that went down had no idea what they were walking into, being the last unexplored place in the world. What they saw was astounding, as they "encountered an immense chamber 900 feet away," big enough to build a four-story building in" (S3,37). To think about the fact that this cave had been unexplored but also large enough; in just a section; to fit entire buildings is insane. Imagine sitting at the bottom of that and looking up, seeing all of that space, not even a flashlight would work as it would just keep going.

Florida's caves are a sight that everyone could enjoy no matter what they are into. The pull of the mysteries and seemingly endless history and visuals help to give a sense of wonder that not many other states can say they have when it comes to caves. All in all, Florida caves captivate the world and help in adding another reason to visit Florida.

RF-84

3 – Purpose/Structure – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A central idea is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Caves in Florida are spectacular because of their mysterious and imaginative world, the captivating past it possesses and the beautiful visuals that go with it*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the central idea. Ideas progress from the mythical qualities these caves present, the history behind them, and visuals experienced inside the caves.
- Purposeful and varied transitional strategies are used to connect ideas between body paragraphs (*Not only are caves in Florida great because of their grand mysteries but also because of their enriching past; Last but not least*) and include topic and closing sentences for each paragraph. Within the body paragraphs, appropriate transitions are used to connect the ideas (*or example; Instead of; but also; otherwise; As described; As it is; not even; All in all*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction provides the plan for the essay as well as some context by comparing known Florida landmarks with the lesser-known Florida cave systems. A succinct conclusion summarizes the ideas used to support the central idea and returns to the idea in the introduction that caves are another unique attraction and reason to visit Florida.

3 – Development – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Logical development demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration is provided with a combination of original writing, paraphrasing (*The use of visuals gives an idea of how mystical caves in Florida really are, bursting with life and holding large remnants of what once was*) and appropriate expansion and synthesis of ideas (*The fossils aren't the only way we view our past but also from what we know from exploring. As we explored the caves we find remnants of the native Americans...*).
- Relevant, integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the exposition. Each idea group uses two sources to support the idea in that paragraph.
- Appropriate citations are provided (*S2,P29*).

3 – Language – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Academic vocabulary is integrated, demonstrating clear expression of ideas (*spectacular; imaginative; enriching; existence; astounding*).
- Varied sentence structure is used, demonstrating grade-appropriate language facility (*Florida's caves hold an air of mystery and storytelling to them, feeling like they are holding the keys to a locked treasure that explorers have to find for themselves*).
- Although a few errors are present, particularly spelling, overall grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions is demonstrated.
- An overall academic tone and voice is present even with some simplicity of expression of ideas (*....to fit an entire building is insane; ...not even a flashlight would work as it would keep on going*).

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

4/4/4

Caves can be extremely useful in uncovering the history of a place. Caves all throughout America, such as those found in Kentucky and Virginia, help reveal some of the history of those locations. However, Kentucky and Virginia are hundreds if not thousands of feet above sea level and the geographical conditions there are perfect for the formation of expansive cave systems. Thus, it would make sense that the caves of Florida would not be nearly as large or useful as caves found further north. However, that could not be further from the truth. The Florida cave systems reveal the geographical history as well as the biological history of Florida. In exploring the caves, one can discover the history of Florida's formation as well as how the people and animals of Florida lived in the past.

The cave systems of Florida help reveal Florida's fascinating and unique geographical history. For example, by examining the limestone walls of the caves, scientists have been able to determine that "Florida has been alternately above and below the sea many times in the geological past" (Source 2). Throughout much of Florida, caves and tunnels are filled with water. After all, most of Florida sits either on sea-level or very close to sea-level. Thus, by comparing the structure of dry caves in Florida to the water-filled unground tunnels found elsewhere in Florida, scientists are able to determine that a series of sea-level fluctuations occurred in Florida and that these fluctuations helped carve the dry caves as water drained through the limestone. Moreover, by further examining the structure of the dry caves, scientists and researchers reveal that "the crust of Florida once consisted of living coral reefs", and areas that are higher in elevation saw "groundwater level[s] decline, leaving the ancient aquifer high and almost dry" (Source 1). The areas higher in elevation were able to surface from the water following sea-level decreases. As a result, the caves which once sat below the waterline were able to drain, resulting in these caves drying out. Part of the value of exploring the caves is the rich geological history they can reveal. The information about the rise and fall of the sea-level in Florida comes as a result of exploration and examination of these caves. By exploring them and researching them, scientists and explorers alike are able to piece together the fascinating story of Florida's formation.

In addition to revealing the geographical history of Florida, the Florida cave systems help researchers uncover the history of biological life in Florida. One example is the fossils which are found in Florida cave systems. The Florida cave systems possess "perfectly formed fossils of sand dollars and sea urchins" (Source 1). These fossils feature the well-preserved skeletal structures of animals long since extinct. While the bones of these animals would usually be lost to the elements, the caves of Florida are able to preserve the fossils and by extension preserve the story the fossils tell. Furthermore, the Florida cave systems do more than reveal secrets about animals that are long dead. The caves are also home to "previously unknown species" such as unique varieties of "albino crayfish" (Source 3). The caves of Florida are extremely unique and as a result, allow for the development of unique animals. While the crayfish are albino now, the fact that they differ from normal crayfish indicates evolutionary differences caused by living in the caves. These evolutionary differences show the history of the biosphere in Florida, revealing why other animals may have developed differently from their counterparts. Lastly, the caves of Florida reveal information regarding the history of humans as well. In the pursuit of learning more about the Native Americans of Florida, explorers and researchers have uncovered "ashes from fires, dead for many years, flint arrowheads, and animal bones" (Source 2). All of these artifacts indicate the existence of Native Americans who utilized these caves for shelter, long before the arrival of Spaniards. The artifacts uncovered help scientists learn more about the lives of these Native Americans and help researchers and historians piece together the history of Florida. All in all, the Florida cave systems allow people to learn about what, as well as who, lived in Florida before modern times. In exploring these cave systems, explorers, scientists, and researchers are able to learn more about Florida, revealing how the biosphere of Florida developed (and continues to develop) over hundreds of thousands of years.

In conclusion, the benefits of the exploration of Florida cave systems are numerous. In exploring these caves, explorers and researchers can work in collaboration to uncover the rich history of Florida. Unique cave structuring and design helps indicate the rising and falling of sea-levels as well as how topography affects the formation of caves. Fossils, artifacts, and never before seen animals help reveal the biosphere of Florida's past as well as how the people of Florida lived centuries ago. The exploration of caves in Florida reveals a plethora of secrets about the land and how the geography, animals, and people of Florida came to be.

RF-64

4 – Purpose/Structure – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- A central idea is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*The Florida cave systems reveal the geographical and biological history of Florida. In exploring the caves, one can discover the history of Florida's formation as well as how the people and animals of Florida lived in the past*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the central idea. Multiple sources are used to support the geographical history and the biological history, which includes both animals and humans.
- Purposeful transitional strategies, including topic sentences to start each body paragraph and a full sentence transition, connect ideas within and among paragraphs, creating cohesion (*In addition to revealing the geographical history of Florida, the Florida cave systems help researchers uncover the history of biological life in Florida*). Internal transitions are used throughout to clarify relationships between ideas (*However; Thus; For example; Afterall; Moreover; As a result; While; by extension; as well as*).
- The introduction and conclusion are effective and enhance the essay. The introduction focuses on the history of Florida (both *geological* and *biological*) and brings attention to the similarities of Florida caves to those in more well-known northern regions. The conclusion provides closure and recaps ideas from the exposition and connects them to the central idea.

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration combines varied techniques including paraphrasing, text evidence, and extended examples and analysis that are appropriate to support the central idea (*While the bones of these animals would usually be lost to the elements, the caves of Florida are able to preserve the fossils and by extension preserve the story the fossils tell; While the crayfish are albino now, the fact that they differ from normal crayfish indicates evolutionary differences caused by living in the caves*).
- Smoothly integrated, relevant evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the exposition.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*Source 2*).

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*fascinating; evolutionary; biosphere; counterparts; numerous; collaboration; topography*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas (*Thus by comparing the structure of dry caves in Florida to the water-filled underground tunnels found elsewhere in Florida, scientists are able to determine that a series of sea-level fluctuations occurred in Florida and these fluctuations helped carve the dry caves as water drained through the limestone*).
- Aside from a couple minor errors, use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas.
- Tone and voice demonstrate a thorough command of the task and topic. An academic tone is maintained throughout.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 INF

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

4/4/4

When one explores and dives into the depths into the massive mystery that is Florida's cave systems, unknown to them they are actively retracing lost history from the timeline of Florida's constant submergence and resubmergence of its unique geography. While encompassed in the vast chambers of limestone, one will find traces of history and unique creatures dwelling in the dark. The ocean has many mysteries that is hiding from explorers and diving into the what these cave systems represent can yield many treasures. The value of these treasures include the adrenaline rush from exploring, the ability to see history retrace itself, and the discovery of the many unknowns that dwell in these cave systems.

Initially, one would receive an immense feel of energy and adrenaline flowing in one's body when exploring a cave. The feel and burst of quick energy helps make the trip valuable because it becomes memorable. Bill Belleville, a veteran explorer and diver, comments about his adrenaline packed trip, "As I edge along a gaping chasm, gripping rocky nubs in the wall and balancing on a few inches of available ledge, I make the mistake of looking down. . . I realize that we are mountain climbing deep inside Florida." This explains the surroundings that Belleville is within and why it is full of adrenaline. He is standing on rocky nubs with only a very few inches to maneuver, one wrong step he can fall. This intensity of cave diving he describes is very rare for a seasoned diver like himself. This adds to the value of cave diving in Florida because it can offer seasoned explorers new challenges full of adrenaline action that they seek for. Additionally, Belleville adds how his most grueling task was to climb what he coined the pit of perdition, a part in which he had to climb across a steep vertical fault of limestone. This communicates the difficulty of the cave exploration that is involved with climbing. The pit was very challenging which induced a surge of adrenaline to be pumped to his body. The fact that a rigorous mountain climbing session with the pit of perdition is found in one Florida cave adds to the value of a unique experience and adrenaline-rushing moments that is unparalleled to many other caves. All in all, the heartbeat pumping action of exploring a place that few humans have touched is already exciting, but to add on the thrill of new difficulties and rigorous challenges add to the excitement that divers would want to explore Florida's cave systems and discover its unique history.

Additionally, many artifacts of the past can be discovered by exploring the vast cave systems. According to *Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland*, "In some of the smaller and dry caves there have been found potsherds, or small broken pieces of Native American pottery. This exemplifies how the prize in exploring caves extends to real life history. By studying the new samples of pottery, scientists can unveil new ideas about how the Native Americans culture was in post-Columbian times; however, not only history of the Native Americans can be retraced, but history of Florida's ecology can be found too. For example, *Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland* states how by studying the fossils and shells of past animals in the cave, researches concluded that Florida has been above and below the water many times. If more explorers explored the cave, it is plausible to conclude that researchers would learn more about the geography of Florida. They could find out the ecosystem of Florida many years ago and compare the ecosystem and peoples there a thousand years ago and in other places of history, which would give researches a broader view of the world and its geographic history. Overall, cave exploration is important because it unveils the history of Florida and its inhabitants, which leads to a better understanding of the world.

Furthermore, exploring the mysteries can yield many valuables and solve mysteries. After the exploration done by Wes Skiles in the Wakulla Springs was finished, Bill Belleville elaborates on the discovery by stating, "Divers brought back valuable bone fossils, took samples of sediment with prehistoric pollens to determine plant life of earlier ages, and projected water flow with dyes and isotope tracing." The discovery of these valuables such as bone fossils and pollens are key in understanding the importance of cave exploration. Skiles was able to recover traces of the caves that would not be found using traditional archeological tactics. By exploring more caves in Florida divers can collect samples that are unique to the cave and would provide a new sample that could provide scientists with a new perspective of Florida. As stated in Line 26 of *Dark Passage: A Journey with Florida's Cave Divers*, "They also recovered several specimens of albino crayfish unique to the caves." This further explains the value of exploring cave systems because researchers would have the ability to examine new species. New animals being discovered can lead to technological advances or even further knowledge about Florida's ecosystem. Because these crayfish can live up to 100 years in the dark, researchers may find a biological process or chemical that could allow humans to be better adapted to the dark or live longer.

In conclusion, the value of exploring cave systems is important because it can provide an exciting thrill for the explorer, restore pieces of history, and can allow for new discoveries. Not many activities can compare to the activity of exploring Florida's cave systems. It can provide a thrilling rush of adrenaline for the tight maneuvering and new unknown lands while having a large scientific impact. By diving into the depths of Florida cave system, a puzzle piece is being discovered. The puzzle is a large retelling of Florida's history and the last remaining pieces are lurking in the depths of the cave.

RF-3

4 – Purpose/Structure – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Central idea is consistently maintained and focused throughout the response (*The value of these treasures include the adrenaline rush from exploring, the ability to see history retrace itself, and the discovery of the many unknowns that dwell in these Florida cave systems*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the central idea. Organization is focused around the three main ideas (*values of the adrenaline rush, retracing history, and discovery of unknowns*).
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs and create cohesion. Functional external transitions (*Initially; Additionally; Furthermore; In conclusion*) combined with topic sentences introduce the three main ideas. Purposeful internal transitions clarify relationships between ideas (*Additionally; All in all; however; For example; Overall; or even*).
- An effective introduction and conclusion provide a strong framework and enhance the response. In addition to a central idea, the introduction provides context for the exposition and indicates that by exploring Florida's cave we can uncover mysteries of the ocean. The conclusion is a recap of the ideas used in the essay and provides an analogy likening Florida's history to an incomplete puzzle and the cave systems as the missing piece of that puzzle.

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Development is skillful and demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration supports the central idea with extension of source ideas that indicate full understanding (*This explains the surroundings that Belleville is within and why is it full of adrenaline. He is standing on rocky nubs with only a very few inches to maneuver, one wrong step he can fall. This intensity of cave diving he describes is very rare for a seasoned diver like himself, this adds to the value of cave diving in Florida because it can offer seasoned explorers new challenges...*).
- Relevant, smoothly integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the exposition. Selective pieces of source evidence are used to support the ideas (*As I edge along a gaping chasm, gripping rocky nubs in the wall and balancing on a few inches of available ledge, I make the mistake of looking down ... I realize that we are mountain climbing deep inside Florida*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited in a variety of ways (*Bill Belleville, a veteran explorer and diver, comments about his adrenaline packed trip; According to Florida Caverns: A Nature-Made Wonderland; Bill Belleville elaborates...*).

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*encompassed; rigorous; plausible; unveils; archeological tactics*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity (*All in all, the heartbeat pumping action of exploring a place that few humans have touched is already exciting, but to add on the thrill of new difficulties and rigorous challenges add to the excitement that divers would want to explore Florida's cave systems and discover its unique history*).
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas. Only a few spelling errors are present.
- A knowledgeable, informed tone and voice strengthen the overall response.

Grade 10 Writing Q37661 EXP

Your high school is doing a research project on Florida's natural landmarks. Write an expository essay about the value of exploring Florida's cave systems.

4/4/4

Deemed "one of the last unexplored places on Earth," by news reports found in Source 3, Florida's cave systems characterized by being either dry or underwater, are located throughout northern and central Florida in places like Wakulla Springs or Ocala. These natural phenomena are numerous and deep, and filled with limestone and fossils of organisms living in epochs and eras far from common time. Further, such caves have been under scrutiny by both professional explorers and scientists, as well as local Floridians for both the mystery that they possess, and their natural beauty. Thus, the notion that Florida's cave systems or caverns are valuable is universal, as they provide insight to Florida's evolved geological history, along with evidence for Florida's previous sociology.

Foremost, Florida's cave systems prove the evolution of the Floridian landscape, geologically. Meaning, Florida, at some point millions of years ago, was an underwater coral system, and slowly dried up as global temperatures increased periodically. Consequently, the expert cave explorers and engineers visiting the Wakulla Caverns in Source 3 noted that the system being studied was surrounded by "26-million year old limestone, where ancient coral reefs held shell and lobster fossils," portraying the significance of what Florida used to be. It is essential to explain that Florida does have caves encapsulated in water along with ground-water filled caves and aquifers, but Florida's dry caves demonstrate Florida's prolonged 'drying.' For example, this is evidenced in Source 1 - "There have been a variety of sea-level fluctuations over Florida dating back to the Pleistocene-Pliocene periods," says Skiles....'Most of these [dry] caves were formed during those fluctuations.'"Even further, the numerous fossils of shells, shellfish, and sea-urchins, as observed by the explorers found in the various source material, provide physical evidence in Florida's evolution, which can be useful from both a scientific and educational perspective. Scientists can match Florida's fossils and minerals to others found in America to determine when and what portion of the North American continent may have been underwater. To put it differently, Source 2 notes "Such limestone found in the Floridian caves] has formed also in the areas many miles removed from the present seas, as in Iowa and other middle western states, telling us where seas have been in the past..." Educationally, such concrete proof teaches students about how the world has evolved, seen with gradual global warming, and why drastic increases can be detrimental to society. In turn, awareness can be raised among younger generations as how to better prepare and maintain policymaking for a brighter future. Along with Florida's caves being natural evidence in how global geological evolution has taken place, they also provide insight in Florida's previous sociology.

Moreover, Florida's cave systems show who previously resided in Florida. This includes Spanish conquistadores, American colonists, and Native American tribes, who occupied Florida far longer than the previous western powerhouses. Likewise, Source 2 outlines that the Floridian cave systems, south of Tallahassee, were occupied by Native Americans, before 1693, and used the land "in the vicinity for shelter during their hunting trips into the region and for refuge from their enemies," where "potsherds" of Native American pottery, along with "ashes from fires, flint arrowheads, and animal bones" have been found by archaeologists. Indeed, the Floridian caves can be comparable to a historical museum, providing a birds-eye-view of the practices, rituals, and lifestyles of Native Americans, adding to the evidence of their unique adaptations. From a historian's perspective, Florida's caves prove when specifically Native Americans had lived in Florida, and likely when their populations plummeted, due to oncoming Spanish colonists, the Spanish-American War, and the discrimination against Native Americans in the 19th century by the United States government. Such information is necessary in categorizing the rise of newer 19th-century states like the U.S.A., as the evidence of Native Americans hiding from Andrew Jackson's harsh actions against their nations found in Source 2, and shows the lesser-known atrocities of America's history, is necessary when explaining how America came to be. Thus, the Floridian cave systems provide sociological evidence as to the preceding cultures and peoples that Florida was once home to.

In conclusion, the Floridian cave systems have uncontested value since they provide insight to Florida's evolved geological history, along with evidence for Florida's previous sociology. Found throughout Florida's landscape, such caves have drawn understandable attention from both researchers and regular, every-day citizens. And so, the common conclusion should be this - Florida's caves, comparable to museums or textbooks, help to visualize the social and geological evolution of the world, proving to mankind what the world once was.

4 – Purpose/Structure – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- A central idea is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*the notion that Florida's cave systems or caverns are valuable is universal, as they provide insight to Florida's evolved geological history, along with evidence for Florida's previous sociology*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and skillfully advances the central idea. The organization is based on two main ideas, the geological history and sociological history of Florida.
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs and create cohesion. Basic external transitions (*Foremost; Moreover; In conclusion*) combined with topic sentences introduce the two main ideas (*evolution of the Floridian landscape; show who previously lived in Florida*). Purposeful internal transitions clarify relationships between ideas (*For example; further, as well as, Consequently, In turn, Moreover, likewise, thus*) and among ideas (*Along with Florida's caves being natural evidence in how global geological evolution has taken place, they also provide insight in Florida's previous sociology*).
- An effective introduction and conclusion enhance the essay. The introduction gives context about the Florida caves, then indicates that a variety of people have interest in the caves for different reasons, which leads into the central idea that value of Florida cave systems universal. The conclusion reiterates the value of the caves and compares them to museums and textbooks to learn about "*what the world once was*".

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes paraphrasing, text evidence, and examples that appropriately support the central idea. Higher level thinking is demonstrated with support for the value of learning about Florida cave systems taking a more global view of what can be learned (*Educationally, such concrete proof teaches students about how the world has evolved, seen with gradual global warming, and why drastic increases can be detrimental to society. In turn, awareness can be raised among younger generations as how to better prepare and maintain policymaking for a brighter future*).
- Relevant evidence is smoothly integrated from multiple sources and lends credibility to the essay (*Such limestone found in the Floridian caves has formed also in the areas many miles removed from the present seas, as in Iowa and other middle western states, telling us where seas have been in the past...*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*Source 2 notes*).

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*phenomena; epochs and eras; Consequently; portraying; encapsulated; birds-eye-view; atrocities*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas (*Such information is necessary in categorizing the rise of newer 19th-century states like the U.S.A., as the evidence of Native Americans hiding from Andrew Jackson's harsh actions against their nations found in Source 2, and shows the lesser-known atrocities of America's history, is necessary when explaining how America came to be*).
- Command of standard English conventions is consistently demonstrated with relatively few errors compared to the amount done correctly.
- Tone and voice are consistently academic and strengthen the overall response.