

B.E.S.T. Writing Anchor Sets

Spring 2026 – Grade 9



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/writing.stml>. For questions about this document, please contact Assessment@fldoe.org.

Florida Anchor Key

Grade 9	ARG			Item 37719	Tourism
Paper	P/S	D	L	Name	Lithocode
A-1	1	1	1		770002062548
A-2	1	1	1		770005426879
A-3	1	1	2		770002036773
A-4	2	2	2		770002036213
A-5	2	2	2		770002036509
A-6	2	2	2		770005401956
A-7	2	2	2		770002053372
A-8	2	2	2		770005444271
A-9	3	3	3		770005428364
A-10	3	3	3		770005433674
A-11	3	3	3		770002043041
A-12	3	3	3		770002039510
A-13	3	3	3		770004670437
A-14	4	4	4		770002040711
A-15	4	4	4		770005401553
A-16	4	4	4		770002057581

A-1

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002062540

Score: 1/1/1

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Tourists helps the global economy In many ways, the tourists visiting adds to the businesses and gets them more money due to having more people than normally and people buying souvenirs and things that people that live there wouldnt. also the tourists use toll roads which gives them more traffic than normal, giving them more pay. however there is a downfall to tourism, like I said about the Increased traffic, often people who are visiting dont know where they are going and get lost and drive slow and hold up traffic. the tourists can make it harder for locals to get to work because of theyre slow driving.

A-1

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002062540

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

- It is unclear what the position is in this brief response. Advantages and disadvantages of tourism are listed without declaring a position, demonstrating a lack of awareness of the task.
- Little discernible organizational structure is present. Advantages of tourism are listed first (brings in more people to provide businesses money; toll road fees provide revenue) followed by a few negatives (increased traffic congestion).
- Few transitions are used (*also*; *however*).
- There is no introduction, conclusion, or attempt to reconcile the pro-con list.
- Brevity is also 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 of the topic and development is demonstrated.
- A lack of knowledge of elaborative techniques is demonstrated. Elaboration is limited to describing how tourism allows more revenue to be generated by assessing visiting drivers tolls and selling them souvenirs. The one negative raised is increased traffic by tourists slowing traffic due to becoming lost while driving.
- Evidence from the sources is absent.
- No citation is present. Had there been citation, the Development score would remain the same.
- Grade level expectations for counterclaims are not satisfied. Because no position is taken, it is difficult to ascertain whether the point that tourists generate traffic is intended as a counterclaim.
- Brevity is also 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 are vague and unclear (*gets them more money*; *things*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic and confusing. Multiple comma splices and over coordinated sentences (*and*) are present.
- A density and variety of severe errors are present in usage (*helps* for *help*; *normally* for *normal*; *theyre* for *their*), punctuation (contraction apostrophes, comma after introductory element), spelling (*souveniers*), and capitalization (beginning sentences and *i* for *I*). These errors demonstrate a lack of command of standard English conventions. Errors rise to a level that it impacts understanding meaning.
- Tone and voice are inappropriate.
- Brevity with errors demonstrates a lack of command of language skills.

A-2

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005426879

Score: 1/1/1

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

The benefits of tourism outweighs its drawbacks because. there is always more money coming from the tourists. in the paragraph line 1 says " in 2016, out of state visitors spent nearly 112\$ billion". meaning that it helps the economy and also helps the environment as well because some tourists like to be respectful and learn about it, although some tourists don't care about the environment at all. but there are people all around the world that go to different places to learn about the environment, they rather go to jungles, rainforests, caves and, towns or areas to help raise awareness or a fund raiser. but some tourists lead to what is called drawbacks. tourists can cause drawbacks because. overtourism, disrespectful to the environment around. people don't like overtourism because it's hard to get to places they need to be or places aren't available at all because of it. people of the country also dislike how some tourists don't help take care of the environment. this causes people that live there not like tourists. but there are many ways we can avoid overtourism, there can be off-season visits or open more destinations for others to go to. and to avoid damage to the environment in paragraph 33 it states "enjoy respect venice" "initiative which controls, fines or disciplines travelers". this helps make travelers know that there are consequences to their actions if they don't partake in to help keep the area safe and clean.

A-2

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005426879

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

- A position is provided but minimally sustained within the task (*The benefits of tourism outweighs its drawbacks because there is always more money coming from the tourists*).
- Little discernible organizational structure is present. Ideas meander from money spent by tourists (*helps the economy*) to some tourists' concern about the environment to others unconcerned with environmental impacts then jumping back to listing places those tourists concerned about the environment may want to visit (*jungles, rainforests, caves and, towns*). Lastly, overtourism's impact on the environment is raised.
- Few transitional elements are present (*although; but; as well*). Overuse of the conjunctions "but" and "although" makes it difficult to understand connections.
- There is no introduction other than to specify a position, and there is no conclusion present.

1 – Development – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A lack of understanding of the topic and development is demonstrated.
- Elaboration consists of confusing and contradictory ideas. A few ideas are listed on each side (*money coming from the tourists*) then becomes a convoluted discussion on whether or not tourists care about the environment and why locals dislike them.
- Evidence from sources is vague, confusing, and merely dropped in without extension (*out of state visistors spent nearly 112\$ billion*). The only other source information is used to address the overtourism counterclaim (*off-season visits or open more destinations*) and is also unelaborated.
- Although there is citation (*paragraph line 1; paragraph 33*), the Development score is evaluated holistically and is not improved in this case by the presence of a citation.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is raised (*overtourism*) and slightly addressed with source ideas (*off season visits or open more destinations and to avoid damage to the environment...; "enjoy respect venice" initiative*).

1 – Language – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Vocabulary and word choice are vague and unclear (*they rather*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic and confusing. Multiple comma splices and a fragment are present.
- Random periods and lack of capitalization make it unclear when a new sentence is intended.
- A density and variety of severe errors are present in usage (missing words, agreement, *tourisist for tourists*), capitalization (beginning sentences, city name), spelling (*enviroment; ouwieghs; visistors*), and punctuation (missing commas; contraction apostrophes, random periods). These errors often obscure meaning and demonstrate a lack of command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice do little to enhance or detract from the overall Language score.

A-3

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036773

Score: 1/1/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Tourism is a great way towns can make money because thousands of people are visiting something they have never done before and they all want to try whatever it is. Many cities and countries all over the world would not make it if there wasn't any tourism. For example paragraph 1 Source 1 "In 2016, out-of-state visitors spent nearly \$112 billion.

Tourism is not only used for fun, it can also be used for education uses. People from all around the world go to small countries and learn about the routine of what other people do in foreign countries. People also go around the world to travel and visit different places. Some people go around the world and try to have fun. In Orlando, many people visit there yearly to go to theme parks and other attractions to have fun.

Lastly, Lots of people around the world try different things and if you couldn't try the things you would not experience anything in life, and some cities would not survive if there were not tourism where they were. All people should try to travel around the world.

A-3

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036773

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

- Although no position is initially stated, the response focuses exclusively on the benefits of tourism. The closest thing to a statement of a position is contained in the concluding paragraph (*All people should try to travel around the world*).
- Little discernible organizational structure is present. There is a slight grouping of ideas around the concepts of economic impact to tourist destinations and education (although the education section shifts to travel broadly and “fun”).
- Transitional strategies are limited and with minimal variety (*For example; not only used for fun; Lastly*).
- No introduction is present, and the conclusion is vague (*people around the world try differnt things and if you couldnt try the things you would not exeperince anything in life*).

1 – Development – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A lack of understanding of the topic and development is demonstrated.
- Elaboration is limited to lists with moments of continuity of thought (people visit to experience something new and without tourists spending some towns won’t survive). Some apparent elaboration is empty, such as merely defining what travel is (*People also go around the world to travel and visit different places*). People traveling for fun is tacked on to the education point with reference to theme parks in Orlando.
- Little source-derived evidence is provided.
- Citation is present (*paragraph 1 Source 1*).
- No counterclaim is provided.

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating partial command of the expression of ideas (*go around the world; things*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled and simplistic, demonstrating a lack of grade-appropriate language facility (*All people should try to travel around the world*).
- Errors present in punctuation (contraction apostrophes, missing commas in citation), capitalization (city name, superfluous after external transition), and spelling (*experince*) demonstrate partial command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice do little to enhance or detract from the overall Language score.

A-4

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036213

Score: 2/2/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Yes, tourism outweighs drawbacks. In Source 1 they stated that tourism is one of the largest industries.

In Source 1, Paragraph 1 says "many cities and countries wouldn't be able to survive without tourism." Tourism is one of the most important states' economy. The reason why tourism is so important is because it helps the state out with money. For example paragraph 2 says "Jamaica gets about \$4 billion a year". All the money that people spend on their food, their hotels, their ubers, taxis, buses, trains, etc is all used for whatever the government thinks their state needs. Whether it's spent building new homes, or buying things from china or other places. This money from tourism results in the government not having to make much effort to making money.

Source 2, Paragraph 5 gives more evidence about what was said in Source 1. The reasoning to that is, in paragraph 5 they say they get "about 100,000 visitors a year, only 84 ships can go at a time, and only 100 people per ship". Imagine how much it is per person to get on a ship. So 100,000 people times the price to get on the ship.. that's a lot of money. So that's just showing you that tourism does a lot and gives a lot of money to the places they travel to.

In conclusion yes, tourism outweighs its drawbacks because they not only learn new things but they help the economy and so much more. They might even teach people there something new.

A-4

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036213

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

- A position is provided but insufficiently sustained within the task (*Yes, tourism outweighs drawbacks*).
- Organizational structure is inconsistent with limited advancement of ideas. Ideas are organized by source (body paragraph one relates to source one and body paragraph two to source two). While source citation begins each paragraph, each relates to the financial aspects of tourism.
- Transitional strategies weakly attempt to connect ideas (*For example; this money from tourism results in; So; In conclusion*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present but simplistic and ineffective. The introduction merely provides a position and information from source one (*tourism is one of the largest industries*). The conclusion raises new ideas for the first time relating to the educational aspects of tourism.

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

- Development demonstrates partial and incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Ineffective elaborative techniques are demonstrated due to overreliance on sources. An attempt to develop the point that tourism funds government spending is made (*Tourism is one of the most important states economy*). Partial understanding is demonstrated in providing examples of expenditures tourists may make that can make it easier for governments to generate revenue (*spend on their food, their hotels, their ubers, taxis, buses, trains etc*) and what that revenue may be used for (*building new homes, or buying things from china*). An attempt to extend in body paragraph two is limited to summarizing source 2, noting that a lot of revenue is generated by a large number of passengers on visiting ships.
- Source-derived evidence from sources one and two is partially integrated, providing uneven support for the position.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. Although there is reference to “*outweighing drawbacks*”, there are no drawbacks noted.
- Citation is present (*Source 1; Source 2*).

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating partial command of the expression of ideas (*helps the state out; The reasoning to that is*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled and simplistic, demonstrating a lack of grade-appropriate language facility.
- Inconsistent use of correct standard English conventions demonstrates partial command. Errors are present in usage (missing words; *Weather* for whether; *govern* for government; *to* for into), punctuation (missing commas, contraction apostrophes, commas after introductory clauses and surrounding quoted material), capitalization (*china*), and spelling (*enconomy; evidents*).
- Tone and voice do little to enhance or detract from the overall Language score.

A-5

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036509

Score: 2/2/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Being able to visit new places is a great privilege. Traveling to places around the world helps you and the places you visit. It helps most countries around the world economically. Some small countries around the world get most of their annual income from tourism. Not only does tourism help economically it also teaches people about culture and other peoples way of life.

Smaller countries benefit greatly from tourism. Source one paragraph two points out the fact that "Tourism In Jamaica generates approximately \$4 billion each year, or 20% of the country's total economy." They do not have to put as much effort into making money for the country because of this, therefore they can focus on other important matters. From this we can tell that smaller countries greatly gain from tourism.

On the contrast there are some downsides to tourism. Some tourists do not respect health and nature of the environments they visit which leads them to littering and overcrowding in one area or another. Although this is not good, governments are working to control overcrowding and pollution. Some governments have places limits on the amount of tourists that can visit certain places at certain times of the year. Still the economic gain is greater than the loss.

People can learn a lot about some place in just one trip. They gain knowledge on the way people live and act during their day-to-day lives. They learn that some people live in some terrible conditions and are sometimes moved to donate towards helping those people. They learn about the past of these countries and important history. People can gain lots of useful information from just visiting a city or country even just once.

Tourism has many benefits for both the tourist and the countries. It greatly helps economically with all the money that is gained through tourism. It helps educate people on cultures and ways of life there unfamiliar with and other useful information. So if you ever get to visit another country or city you can remember that your helping both that place economically and yourself educationally.

A-5

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002036509

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

- A position is identified in the opening (*Taveling to places around the world helps you and the places you visit*).
- The organizational structure is inconsistent. A two-pronged approach to organization is identified in the opening (small country economy; education) with the “downsides” placed in between.
- Transitions attempt to connect ideas but lack purpose and variety. Topic sentences begin each paragraph, and summarizing sentences repeat essentially the same thing as the topic sentences to conclude each paragraph. There is some sentence-to-sentence continuity of thought, but transitions lack purpose (*From this we can tell; On the contrast; Although; Still*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present but ineffective as they merely provide the position and an outline of main ideas.

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

- Development demonstrates partial and incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument but relies heavily on sources without sufficient extension. Smaller countries, it is argued, can turn their energy from raising revenue to other efforts. Relevant text from source 1 is included, but attempts to extend merely restate source. Elaboration in the third body paragraph related to education goes slightly further in attempting to develop why educational tourism is good (*They learn that some people live in some terrible conditions and are sometimes moved to donate towards helping those people*).
- Evidence from source one is related to the topic and partially integrated.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is acknowledged (*Some tourist do not respect health and nature of the enviornmets*) and followed by a weak address, noting that “*governments are working to control overcrowding and pollution*” by placing seasonal limits on tourists.
- Citation is present (*Source one paragraph two*).

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are imprecise and basic, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*great; not good; lots of*).
- Sentence structure is somewhat simplistic (*They learn about the past of these countries and important history*).
- Errors are present in spelling (*privlige; Taveling; benit; therefor; enviornmets*), usage (*tourist* for tourists; *then* for than; *places* for placed; *there* for their; *your* for you’re), and punctuation (commas after introductory clauses and possessive apostrophes).
- Tone and voice do not elevate the response beyond the score of 2.

A-6

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005401956

Score: 2/2/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Did you know that tourism in Florida is one of the most important factors in the states economy? I believe that the benifits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks. People can travel and explore the world, and you can meet new people and learn things from them. However, overtourism is a problem.

first, One benifit of tourism is that its good for the economy. it states , "Many cities and countries throughout the world would not be able to survive without tourism."(source 1 paragraph 1 Griffith Grant and Janie Westburg) This is basically saying that tourists help countries a lot. They help with money by paying for everything and help the place fourish. They also help with brining new things into the area and teaching things to the people that live there.

second, Tourism is good for the economy because you can meet new people and learn new things from them. it states, "but tourism is not just about economic impact; traveling to new places teaches people about different cultures and ways of life."(source 1 paragraph 3 Griffith Grant and Janie Westenberg) This means that when you travel to new places you learn new things. Different places do different things and when you travel to these places you can learn new things such as their traditions, religions, recipes, and more. Meeting new people also can help you expand your circle of friends and learn things about them.

However, Overtourism can be a bad thing. it states, "But tourism can also harm the quality of life for residents, with packed beaches, locals priced out of housing and congested streets in the narrow byways of European cities dating back to medieval times."(source 3 paragraph 22 Pan Plyas) This is saying that it would harm locals because the area that they live in is so packed. Just imagine going outside your house and the street is filled with cars with license plates from all over and you cant even get to where you wanna go without being stuck in traffic.

In conclusion, I strongly belive that the benifits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks. Tourism is good for the economy, and you can meet new people and learn new things, However Tourism can become Overtourism and the area that locals lived in will be full of people just visiting.

A-6

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005401956

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

- A position is provided but insufficiently sustained within the task (*I believe that the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks*).
- The organizational structure is inconsistent. Ideas are chunked around the economic and educational aspects of tourism. The third body paragraph contains the counterclaim.
- Basic external transitions order paragraphs (*first; second; However; In conclusion*), and internal transitions attempt to connect some ideas but lack purpose (*This means; also; This is saying that*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present but simplistic. The introduction provides an attention getting fact about tourism's impact on the Florida economy followed by a position and the three ideas that will be used to organize the response. The conclusion simply repeats the position and relists the points previously made.

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

- Development demonstrates partial and incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Ineffective elaborative techniques are demonstrated. Attempts to extend ideas show limited understanding and either summarize the source quote or provide simplistic explanation (*This is basically saying that tourists help countries a lot. They help with money by paying for everything and help the place flourish*). The second body paragraphs starts by claiming that learning new things is helpful for the economy but doesn't explain the connection, instead partially explaining the educational benefits of travel (*learn new things such as their traditions, religions, recipes, and more*).
- Evidence is partially integrated and related to the topic but at times disconnected from the argument. For example, the connection between cultural education and the economy is unexplained.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is offered (*Overtourism can be a bad thing*). No attempt is made to rebut this counterclaim other than to weigh this drawback versus the benefits in the conclusion.
- Citation is present (*source 1; source 3*).

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating partial command of the expression of ideas (*things*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled. Limited variety and complexity are demonstrated, particularly in original sentences (*This means that when you travel to new places you learn new things*).
- There are errors present in punctuation (missing commas surrounding quoted material, possessive and contraction apostrophes), spelling (*benefits; believe*), and capitalization (beginning sentences, superfluous after external transitions).
- Tone and voice do not elevate the response beyond the score of 2.

A-7

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002053372

Score: 2/2/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Tourism is a big thing everywhere. Families travel to different states and countries for vacation all the time. It is a good thing to spend time with your family or even friends. Tourism can generate money, help businesses grow, can be informal and help get money for conservation. Without tourism states and countries would be struggling, we need tourism.

The first reason why tourism can benefit countries is because it generates most of their money. As Griffith Grant and Janie Westenburg said "In fact, it is one of the worlds largest industries." There are many other ways to generate money but this is where most of the money is generated from. "In 2016, out-of-state visitors spent nearly \$112 billion." Said Grant and Westenburg. The second reason tourism is significantly needed is it gives people chances to get jobs, as said by Grant and Westenburg "Tourism accounts for one out of 10 jobs worldwide; for new jobs it represents one in five." So tourism can open many new job opportunities anywhere and for anyone.

Some more reasons why we should see tourism as a positive is because it can be informal, we can learn a lot from traveling. Mark Twain said "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." Traveling can help improve our knowledge of other places around the world. "Travel and tourism make money, but they also foster priceless experiences that can bring people from opposite ends of the world closer together." Learning about other cultures can bring people closer together even if you live across the world. Also, without tourists there would not be enough money for conservation, as said by Juliet Ellperin "But if it weren't for ecotourism, there wouldn't be any money conservation." Some countries would be struggling with money issues more than they already are.

Tourism has many positives but, it also has its negatives such as it can be bad for residents and bad for the environment. "But tourism can also harm the quality of life for residents, with packed beaches, locals priced out of housing and congested streets..." Said Pan Pylas. If there are too many tourists there may not be enough supplies for everyone. Pylas also said that there are long term effects of tourism, such as environmental damage and lower chances of getting a job or buying a home somewhere.

So, overall tourism is a positive thing. Yes, it may have negatives but it has more of a good impact than negative impact. Without tourism countries will struggle to get all the materials and supplies they need to make the residents happy. We need to keep tourism because it has a very positive impact on countries.

A-7

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002053372

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

- A position is identified in the introduction but insufficiently sustained within the task (*Without tourism states and countries would be struggling, we need tourism*).
- Organizational structure is inconsistent, disrupting the advancement of the argument. The first body paragraph focuses on economic issues (tax revenue generation and jobs). The second body paragraph shifts from informational tourism to raising money for conservation then back to governments relying on tourism-based revenue. A counterclaim is raised in the third body paragraph.
- Transitions attempt to connect ideas but lack purpose and variety. Topic sentences identify each chunk (*generates most of their money*). External transitions merely identify the order of the reasons (*The first reason; The second reason; Some more reasons*). A few internal transitions are also used (*So; Also*) but do little to clarify relationships between ideas.
- The introduction suggests that many travel and that is good then identifies a few points relating to economic issues. The conclusion merely indicates that tourism is more positive than negative due to its economic impact.

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

- Development demonstrates partial and incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument but relies heavily on sources and does not go far enough. Elaboration of the economic effects of tourism is limited to minor extension (where most of the money is generated for countries and new tourist industry-related jobs can open for anyone anywhere). Each of the ideas in the second body paragraph are similarly elaborated with one line of general commentary or restatement following quoted material (*Traveling can help improve our knowledge of other places around the world*). No explanation of the how, why, or so what is provided.
- Evidence is partially integrated and related to the topic but somewhat disconnected from the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is noted (*it can be bad for residents and bad for the environment*). No attempt to address the counterclaim is made other than to weigh the negatives with the positives in the conclusion.
- Appropriate citation is provided (*Said Grant and Westenberg; Said Pan Pylas*).

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are imprecise and basic, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*big thing; good thing*). There is also an overreliance on source material for expression.
- Sentence structure is partially controlled and somewhat simplistic.
- Relatively few errors in standard English conventions are present.
- Tone and voice do not elevate the response beyond the score of 2.

A-8

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005444271

Score: 2/2/2

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

There has been an argument on whether the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks. The answer to this is that the drawbacks outweigh the benefits. This is because of overtourism, the footprint left behind from tourists, and the effect they have on what is around them. Although all of these things are true, people say that there are many more benefits, such as the amount of money they bring to a country or the support they give to local businesses. Yes, the tourists, in some cases, help the country, but most of the time they just harm it.

In the source, "Managing overtourism an increasing feature of global travel," the author states many reasons on how tourism effects a country negatively. To start, overtourism. This plays a big role in the downfall of countries. Due to overtourism, communities are being disrupted, travelers experiences are being harmed, and they are ruining the quality of life of residents. This is because it causes over population and the government does not know how to handle it. Since there is cheap airfare, it has been easier to travel. This is increasing the amount of tourism and raising the level of resentment for tourists.

To continue with the topic of drawbacks from tourism, the source, "Despite Efforts, Some Tours Do Leave Footprints," there are many things that tourists do on tours that effect the country and its environment. Many people that lead tours say that tourists leave a footprint. What this means is they effect the environment in a way that can not be fixed for a while. For example, the tourists in Ecuador strained their natural resources. Another form of tourism is ecotourism. There is ecotourism present in the Galapagos and it is overpopulating the country. In some ways the tourism is helping the economy, but it is stated that it could eventually ruin the economy.

To counter, the source, "The Economic and Social Implications of Tourism," shows how much tourism benefitted different countries. To show this, the author used some statistics of the amount of money tourists brought to a country in a year. For example, in 2016, tourists brought \$112 billion to Florida. Now Florida has a lot of different attractions such as amusement parks and water parks, but this is not the only reason why people travel. There is something called educational tourism where people go to learn about different historical events. This helps in improving cultural awareness and understanding. While people are traveling, they tend to go to more small businesses than locals would, so those business owners make more profit.

To finish this off, there are benefits to tourists coming to your country, such as more money, but there are many more things that they bring that are bad for the country. This includes overtourism, leading to overpopulation, environmental decay, due to tourists leaving a footprint, and disruption of communities. All of this could be avoided if airfare was more expensive and not as many people could afford it, or if we limited the

amount of tourists in one country. Many tourists tend to crowd the same area at the same time, so limiting the amount of people would fix this. So what are we going to do to try to fix this?

A-8

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005444271

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

- A position is provided and somewhat sustained within the task (*The answer to this is that the drawbacks outweigh the benefits*).
- An inconsistent organizational structure is present. Organization is based on source (overtourism and environment) followed by a counterclaim addressing economic issues.
- Transitional strategies attempt to connect ideas. External transitions are basic or identify where the information contained in the paragraph originates (*In the source; To continue; To counter; To finish this off*). Internal transitions are repetitive and do little to clarify relationships between ideas (*To start; This is; What this means is; For example; Another, While*).
- The introduction and conclusion are simplistic. The introduction states the position and provides a preview of ideas. The conclusion is a bit better, touching on points made, suggesting methods to resolve overtourism, and ending with a rhetorical call-to-action.

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

- Development demonstrates partial and incomplete understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument but relies too heavily on the sources. Although minor extension is present, it is overall ineffective. Most original writing merely summarizes the source (*Due to overtourism, communities are being disrupted, travelers experiences are being harmed, and they are ruining the quality of life of residents*). The environmental impact argument is similarly developed.
- Source-derived evidence is partially integrated but unevenly supportive. Some relevant excerpts from each of the sources are provided.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. Two counterclaims are identified (economic benefits and cultural education). No attempt to address is made other than to weigh them in the concluding paragraph (*there are benefits to tourists coming to your country, such as more money, but there are many more things that they bring that are bad for the country*).
- Citation is present by including the article titles in the first sentence of each paragraph.

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

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic. Most moments of better vocabulary are taken from the source materials (*resentment*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled. Although a few attempts at more complexity in sentence structure are made, overall, the language facility is approaching grade-level performance. Much of the original writing is relatively simplistic and/or borrowed from source materials.
- Although there are a few conventions issues throughout, mostly spelling, errors are relatively few, demonstrating mostly grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice do not elevate the response beyond the score of a 2.

A-9

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005428364

Score: 3/3/3

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Think back to the last time you went on a vacation. Were you there for business, education, or just to experience life? Throughout its years, tourism has forever shaped the global economy and how it operates. Despite some arguing its negatives, its crucial role and importance in the world outweighs the negative regarding them. Realizing how big tourism's role is to our society should convince anyone why it must be here to stay.

Starting off with how tourism helps with work and keeps companies afloat. According to the article "The Economic and Social implications of Tourism" it states "tourism accounts for 1 out of 10 jobs worldwide; for new jobs, it's 1 out of 5" Given the data, with so much depending on tourism, why would anyone want to take it down when it will lead to a possible recession? According to the same source, it also says, "Many cities and countries throughout the world would not be able to survive without tourism. In Florida, for example, tourism is one of the most important factors in the state's economy. In 2016, out-of-state visitors spent nearly \$112 billion." Imagine if we were able to slow down or even stop tourism, what would the consequences be to cities and countries that depend on it to keep their economic structure in place? This would create a ripple effect, not just affecting the countries reliant on tourism, but the others that are affiliated or associated with them. Affecting their economic structure as well.

Furthermore, it is not just the economic effect, but also the educational effects of tourism. The freedom to travel allows people to observe, inspect, and investigate new lands and oceans. Simply put, as it says in the Source 1, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." Meaning, traveling to learn new bits of information about our world opens a door of curiosity and open-mindedness. Life-long education is the best form of education, putting a wall in front of that is mind-numbing. The less people get to travel, the less of a chance mankind gets to discover something revolutionary, and may change us forever. For better or for worse.

Finally, with its importance and positivity, comes with some negatives to complicate things. Keep in mind to not get the wrong idea and think tourism is all sunshine and rainbows. With the good, there is always a bad. For instance, there is the growing crisis of overtourism and how it can end up causing more harm than intended. In Source 3, it states, "...overtourism,' is a phenomenon that is disrupting communities, imperiling cherished buildings and harming the experience of travelers and local residents alike." Typically resulting in overpopulation and loss of resources in areas of high tourism. Making the quality of experiences of almost everyone less. Making tourism feel like a burden at times. Though, at the same time, it doesn't compare to the economic value that comes with it. So it's safe to argue it's better to have tourism around since it keeps things in order in the global economy.

Hopefully after reading this, you have an understanding of how and why tourism plays a crucial role to our everyday lives. Losing it would be a huge loss, affecting our way of living and survive. So the next time you go out of the country for a trip, keep in mind you're helping the world too.

A-9

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005428364

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

- A position is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Despite some arguing its negatives, its crucial role and importance in the world outweighs the negative regarding them*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument. Two ideas provide focus for the response (economics and education). The third body paragraph addresses the counterclaim.
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs. External transitions followed by topic sentences succinctly introduce each supporting idea and provide connection from one paragraph to the next (*Furthermore, it is not just the economic effect, but also the educational effects of tourism*). Purposeful internal transitions help explain relationships between ideas (*This would; Simply put; Meaning; With the good, there is always a bad. For instance; Though, at the same time; So*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction invites the reader to recall their last travel vacation and focuses on the role tourism plays in the *global economy*. The conclusion, despite its brevity, is appropriately general and summarizes while characterizing ramifications if tourism were lost (*crucial role to our everyday lives*).

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

- Understanding of the topic is demonstrated through logical development.
- Adequate elaboration is used, including a combination of original writing with the use of elaborative techniques appropriate to support the position. The economic impact of tourism is stressed with the use of a rhetorical question (*Given the data, with so much depending on tourism, why would anyone want to take it down when it will lead to a possible recession?*). Explanation of the ramifications to local economies that would result from lost tourism is provided (*This would create a ripple effect, not just affecting the countries reliant on tourism, but the others that are affiliated or associate with them*). Relevant text quotes are integrated as support and explanation provided of the how and why, demonstrating understanding (*Life-long education is the best form of education, putting a wall in front of that is mind-numbing*).
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is integrated and lends credibility to the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is identified (*overtourism*). Address is limited to weighing the impact with the economic advantages (*it doesn't compare to the economic value that comes with it*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited using article titles and source numbers (*Source 1*).

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

- Academic vocabulary is integrated, demonstrating clear expression of ideas (*ripple effect; opens a door of curiosity and open-mindedness*).

- Varied sentence structure demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility (*The less people get to travel, the less of a chance mankind get to discover something revolutionary, and may change us forever*).
- Grade-appropriate command of conventions is demonstrated. A few minor errors are present.
- Appropriate academic tone and voice is used throughout.

A-10

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005433674

Score: 3/3/3

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Imagine having a job that survives off tourists visiting and doing fun things, but slowing the tourists stop coming. Now you have to keep making money, but since the tourists are gone there is no where to work. Many places around the world are speaking about tourism and whether it needs to be stopped or continued. In my opinion the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks to it.

One of the reasons tourism has benefits, is the economic impact it has. In Source 1, it states "... tourism accounts for one out of 10 jobs worldwide; for new jobs, it represents one in five. Many cities and countries around the world would not be able to survive without tourism.(paragraph 1)" One summer my family and I went lobstering in Key West. My dad asked the captain of the boat who his usual customers are and he told us that his customers are all tourists. He proceeded to explain that all of the locals in Key West have their own businesses just like him, whether it's boat renting, parasailing, fishing trips, or even street dancing. Key West is a city that survives off tourism, if there were no tourists a lot of locals would be out of jobs. "Tourism accounts for around 10 percent of the world's annual GDP, bringing hard currency into many countries that desperately need it. (Source 3, paragraph 21)" Meaning that even countries that don't have a lot of money to begin with are making enough money off tourism to survive. Stopping tourism would put a lot of people in a bad place economically.

Not only is tourism important economically, but also it also can teach new people about different cultures, and history when they visit new places. In Source 1 it explains "Educational tourism is meant to bring historical events or environmental phenomena to life...every year families and school groups follow the path of the Freedom Riders, a group of civil right activists who rode integrated buses to call attention to segregation in the South." This can give tourists a better understanding of the place around them and give them interesting facts about history in that area. In second grade I took a field trip to Cracker Country and we learned about how people lived in Florida in the 1800's. It was interesting because I had just recently moved to Florida and never knew what it was like to live here so long ago. "It is just as easy to directly support and learn from locals by going to events such as farmers' markets, arts and crafts fairs, or community performances. These local events also create pride in one's town, community, and culture...but they also foster priceless experiences that can bring people from opposite ends of the world closer together. (Source 1, paragraph 4)" In Key West there is this place kind of like a boardwalk and there are many small businesses set up along it, but also live performers. There are people playing fire or doing crazy gymnastics stunts, and it's crazy to watch because there is nothing like that in Tampa. It was fun seeing all these people doing the things they do everyday in a place I've never been before.

Many people may think that tourists visiting places may disrupt locals' life and get in the way, but Source 2 states "If tourists are well guided, if they have someone who's responsible, the impact would be minimal. (paragraph 8)" If the tourist population is guided locals will have nothing to worry about, and they can live their lives the same. To conclude, I believe the negative aspects of tourism are not as important as the positives.

A-10

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005433674

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

- A position is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*In my opinion the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks to it*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument. Ideas are chunked into two segments (economic benefits and cultural history education). The counterclaim is raised and addressed in the conclusion.
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs. Paragraphs focus on one idea and are introduced by topic sentence (*One of the reasons tourism has benefits, is the economic impact it has*) and concluded with a sentence summarizing and punctuating the point (*Stopping tourism would put a lot of people in a bad place economically*). Internal transitions clarify relationships between ideas (*Meaning that; This can; These local events aslso*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction begins with a scenario placing the reader in the role of a worker who has lost their job due to tourism drying up. The debate is framed and position provided. The conclusion is weaker, addressing a counterclaim and abruptly repeating the position.

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

- Understanding of the topic is demonstrated through logical development.
- A combination of original writing with extension integrating relevant text quotation is used to develop the response. Original anecdotes are used to illustrate understanding. Tourism's impact on local business is illustrated in the Key West's fishing boat captain anecdote. The school field trip anecdote illustrates how they learned about Florida's past and how a tourist may establish an appreciation for the local culture through experience (*It was fun seeing all these people doing the things they do everyday in a place I've never been before*).
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is integrated and lends credibility to the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. One counterclaim is raised (*Many people may think that touists visiting places may disrupt locals life and get in the way*). Address references a source idea that if tourists are guided there will be no impact on local residents.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*Source 1*).

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

- Academic vocabulary is integrated, demonstrating clear expression of ideas (*perfected; gear towards*).
- Varied sentence structure demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility.
- Use of grade-appropriate conventions is demonstrated. Although there are errors present in various conventions (usage, punctuation, and spelling), many appear typographical in nature (*aslso; palying; direectly; ot; preformers*). These are often one-offs and would be caught in editing for a second draft.
- The tone and voice are occasionally casual.

A-11

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005433674

Score: 3/3/3

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Tourism is an important part of the global economy and without this large industry we would be at a disadvantage. In fact, tourism is one of the world's largest industries today. Tourism not only improves the number of jobs provided but it also improves the country's total economy. Sure, there are some setbacks when it comes to tourism but the benefits outweigh its drawbacks in the long run.

According to *The Economic and Social Implications of Tourism* by Griffith Grant and Janie Westenberg "tourism accounts for one out of 10 jobs worldwide; for new jobs, it represents one in five." These jobs could include tour operators, any service at a hotel, amusement park operators, and even small boutiques or an air BnB. You may not realize it but tourism is all around us. But if it wasn't our work force would be of less variety and overall completely different. Because of all of these jobs providing entertainment and housing tourists have spent larger amounts of money. In the same article Grant and Westenberg add on that in Florida "in 2016, out-of-state visitors spent nearly \$112 billion." Without this kind of money coming in on a regular basis Florida wouldn't be able to maintain beautiful beaches or some of the best theme parks in America. Then eventually if that flow of money were to stop and they could not improve the attractions people would stop visiting the sunshine state and the economy would suffer.

Other less fortunate country's economies also rely on tourism as a primary source. For example, in the passage *Managing Overtourism an Increasing Feature of Global Travel* by Pan Pylas he explains how "tourism accounts for around 10 percent of the world's annual GDP, bringing hard currency into many countries that desperately need it, like Greece." GDP is a monetary value of all services and goods produced within one country in one year. Greece isn't the only country that possesses high numbers when it comes to tourism. This is a pattern for destinations all over the world in large and smaller country's. Another example is Jamaica. Again in the first article it emphasizes how "tourism in Jamaica generates approximately \$4 billion each year, or 20% of the country's total economy." Another pro about tourism that is not entirely about money is sharing the culture and teaching people about the ways of life. This can add an additional layer of understanding because the tourists are creating memories while also helping the economy of the location they are visiting.

One drawback of tourism is the "harm of the quality of life for the residents, with packed beaches, locals priced out of housing and congested streets" according to Pan Pylas in the second article. But he goes on, just a couple paragraphs later, to explain that it is required that we "manage tourism in a sustainable and responsible way that benefits local communities." Some very populous tourist destinations are already making an effort and trying new techniques. For instance in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador has imposed a 100,000 annual limit on visitors or in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik they limited the entering number to 4,000 people a day. "Other strategies include promoting off-season visits, opening up new destinations or tweaking marketing" the author adds. With these new efforts most tourist locations will be on the right track to solve the problem of the quality of life while maintaining a healthy economy.

In conclusion, the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. This is true because of the job opportunities that become available to many people in need. Another reason this is true is the country's total economy which will likely be at a higher rate. And soon many of the drawbacks will hopefully be diminished because of efforts and innovative techniques put in place to manage overtourism.

A-11

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005433674

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

- The position is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Sure, there are some setbacks when it comes to tourism but the benefits outweigh the drawbacks in the long run*).
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument. All affirmative argument revolves around the economic advantages of tourism. This is divided into the impact on Florida and small foreign countries. The counterclaim then focuses on overtourism.
- Purposeful transitional strategies are used to connect ideas within and among paragraphs. Basic external transitions identify each focus. Paragraphs are introduced by basic external transitions (*According to; Other less fortunate; One draw back; In conclusion*). Internal transitional strategies are more purposeful (*But if it wasn't; Because of all of these; Then eventually; also rely; For example; Another example; This can add; But he goes on; For instance; This is true because*).
- The introduction provides context of tourism's substantial economic impact and previews ideas to be addressed (Florida jobs and smaller countries). The conclusion restates the position and the major elements of the argument (job opportunities and total economic benefit to a country).

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

- Understanding of the topic is demonstrated through logical development.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing with text evidence to support the argument (*These jobs could include tour operators, any service at a hotel, amusement park operators, and even small boutiques or an air Bnb*). Extension goes further, describing what could occur to Florida's tourism industry if tourists stop coming (revenue lost results in inability to maintain beaches and theme parks and improve attractions). The second body paragraph focusing on the economic impact to the smaller countries of Greece and Jamaica is less well developed. The cultural education aspect of tourism's value is less sufficiently developed.
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is integrated and lends credibility to the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. Although only one counterclaim is raised (overtourism), the address goes further, describing efforts to combat overtourism in multiple locations with source support (limiting visitors at certain times, *promoting offseason visits, opening up new destinations, or tweaking marketing*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited using article titles and author names.

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

- Academic vocabulary is integrated, demonstrating adequate expression of ideas (*Then eventually if that flow of money were to stop and they could not improve the attractions people would stop visiting the sunshine state and the economy would suffer*).

- Varied sentence structure, including a few more complex sentences, demonstrate grade-appropriate language facility (*With these new efforts most tourist locations will be on the right track to solve the problem of the quality of life while maintaining a healthy economy*).
- Although a few conventions errors are present, overall use of standard English conventions demonstrates grade-appropriate command.
- The tone and voice are appropriate overall for the argument.

A-12

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002039510

Score: 3/3/3

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Throughout the year, families all around the world are planning their next vacation. These destination cities get thousands of people visiting year round. These tourists are affecting the communities around them and harming the environment. Not only does it affect this, but cities or countries are becoming overcrowded and it is disrupting their daily lives. The drawbacks of tourism outweigh the impacts because of environmental damage and overtourism.

To begin, one of the drawbacks of tourism is environmental damage. In Source 3 it states, "Long-term problems include environmental damage and the long-term sustainability of cities as viable places to live and work." This proves that tourism greatly affects the cities or countries that experience it. For example, Florida is known for its beaches, if the tourism continues to grow. Our beaches, wildlife, and ecosystem will be affected by the amount of people using it. The greater the population the more prone to pollution and waste the area is. Statistics show tourism is increasing as the years go on and this is not a good look for the long-term effects. According to Source 2, "If there weren't ecotourism, there wouldn't be people here, and the problems would be much more manageable" This shows that tourism will inevitably be the cause of negatively affecting the environment surrounding it. Tourism has to be managed or controlled or it will cause countries to lose what they are most known for and in the long-term they will end up losing all of the economy that was based upon tourism.

In addition, another drawback of tourism is overtourism. Source 3 states, "Both are at the forefront of efforts to get a grip on 'overtourism' a phenomenon that is disrupting communities, imperiling cherished buildings and harming the experience of travelers and local residents alike." This evidence shows that the rate of tourism is growing at a very fast pace. It is starting to disturb locals and it is ruining the attractions. This outweighs the positive effects in the long term because countries will end up losing money as the tourism rates slowly start to decline. Source 3 also states, "But tourism can also harm the quality of life for residents, with packed beaches, locals priced out of housing and congested streets in the narrow byways of European cities dating back to medieval times. This explains what overtourism can do to these popular destinations. Tourism is causing more harm than good and it is affecting not only the locals but the tourists themselves. With tourism continuing to grow as time goes on, who knows the long term effects it will cause. This issue is becoming a bigger problem throughout the world and we need to find a solution.

Furthermore, some critics argue tourism teaches people about a variety of cultures and creates memories around information of the area. Source 1 states, "But tourism is not just about economic impact; travelling to new places teaches people about different cultures and ways of life." This information does not prove that the impacts outweigh the drawbacks because it doesn't provide enough to make all the drawbacks go away. Tourism may provide a learning experience but the effects of overtourism, ecotourism, and long-term effects defeat the purpose. In our modern day society we have technology at our fingertips. We can learn about anything we want just from using our phone or a computer. The negative effect on our environment and the damaging of locals quality of life shouldn't be ruined just because of a learning experience. According to Source 1, "It's true that commercial aspects of many destinations can overshadow the rich history and culture of the surrounding area" This proves that most tourists don't even travel to learn about something. They travel to have fun and see attractions or famous sites. Tourism is causing too much harm to the world and if we can't control it then our world will be severely damaged economically and socially.

To conclude, the drawbacks of tourism outweigh the impacts because of environmental damage and overtourism. The long-term effect greatly damages our world and it will effect everyone. Tourism is effecting everyone currently and as the rates continue to rise it will continue to be fatal. Who knew that large crowds and packed beaches would be one of the most important issues in our society today.

A-12

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002039510

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

- A position is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*The drawbacks of tourism outweigh the impacts because of environmental damage and overtourism*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument. A three-pronged organizational approach is outlined in the opening and followed (environmental damage, overtourism, counterclaims).
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs. Basic external transitions (*To begin; In addition; Furthermore; To conclude*) precede clear topic sentences. Despite the repetition of the word “this” to start most internal transitions, they are more purposefully used to connect ideas (*For example; This shows that; This evidence shows; This outweighs; This explains; This information does not prove; Tourism may...but*). Paragraph-concluding sentences sufficiently summarize and bring the point home (*Tourism has to be managed or controlled or it will cause countries to lose what they are most known for and in the long-term they will end up losing all of the economy that was based upon tourism*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction describes the popularity of tourism and outlines an organizational structure. The conclusion appropriately reiterates the points made, weighs the considerations, and summarizes.

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

- Development is logical and demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing with text evidence. A balance between relevant source-derived information and commentary demonstrates understanding. For example, in body paragraph one, the environmental impacts to Florida that tourism causes uses relevant evidence from Sources 2 and 3 as well as analysis explaining how the increasing number of tourists will *inevitably be the cause of negatively affecting the environment*.
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is integrated, lending credibility to the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are met. Multiple benefits of tourism are addressed: the weighing in the second body paragraph notes that any economic benefit tourism may generate will disappear as tourism rates slowly start to decline due to overtourism. The last body paragraph also addresses the positive qualities cultural tourism and cherished memories can bring and argues that technology can provide similar experiences without risking damage to the environment and most tourists don’t go to places to learn, but *to have fun and see attractions or famous sites*.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*In Source 3*).

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

- Integration of academic vocabulary demonstrates clear expression of ideas (*prone; disturb; defeat; fingertips*).

- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility (*Tourism has to be managed or controlled or it will cause countries to lose what they are most known for and in the longterm they will end up losing all the economy that was based upon tourism*).
- Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions. Just a few one-off errors are present.
- A confident and authoritative tone and voice are appropriate for the overall argument.

A-13

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770004670437

Score: 3/3/3

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Tourism is one of the largest industries around the globe; it being a major part of the world economy. It allows people from all over to experience new things such as learn about a cultures history or enjoy a places natural environment while also boosting those local communities economically. As the world evolves and the ability to travel becomes more accesable, areas that may not be developed or can greatly benefit from visitors who want to learn about them. Everything has its pro's and con's but for tourism, the benefits greatly outweigh the drawbacks.

To start off, one of the most known reasons of tourism is culture and entertainment. Most people that travel to other places do it for vacation; where they can relax away from home while learning and experiencing local traditions. In source 1, it states that Florida, one of the most popular states in the U.S.A to visit, not only is popular because of its theme parks and beaches, but also because of its history and communities. Visitors can go to the forts or local events like the farmers' markets or arts and crafts fairs. This shows that tourists have many options and reasons as to why they may go somewhere and education is always a good thing. "In foreign tourism especially, these personal exchanges between locals and visitors go a long way toward fostering improved cultural awareness and understanding." (Paragraph 4) Evidently, tourism allows for us to improve our cultural awareness and understanding which will not only bring people closer, but also traditions.

To continue, some may argue that tourism is bad for local communities; arguing that tourism will harm the environment and have negative effects on the citizens economically and life-wise. Pollution from fuel and over-concentration of travelers are a few of the reasons. However, even though it's true that some places may get congested from visitors or it can be detrimental towards the environment, tourism has too many benefits to be considered a bad thing. As long as it's managed responsibly and sustainably, it can greatly improve local economies and educate people about cultural traditions. For example, in source 3 it states, "In the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador has imposed a 100,000 annual limit on visitors." To clarify, Ecuador, which is a hot-spot destination due to its beautiful environment and how it's the birthplace of the natural selection theory, has quotas (or rules) to regulate tourism. In paragraph 9, source 2 it says, "...they can stop only at specific islands. Just 84 tour ships are allowed to travel the area's waters each year, and none carry more than about 100 passengers." This is a great example of how we can balance both tourism and local communities without constricting either.

Lastly, economic benefits; arguably the most important. Ever since technology has advanced and taken over the world, tourism has been booming. According to the 2017 Economic Impact Report by the World Travel & Tourism Council, tourism makes up one out of ten jobs world wide and for new jobs, one out of five. (Source 1) This states that this industry makes up a majority of jobs worldwide and only continues to grow larger. As this happens, it gives smaller countries the opportunity to develop. "Tourism in Jamaica, for instance, generates approximately \$4 billion each year, or 20% of the country's total economy." Evidently, Jamaica, which is a small island with a few number of residents, relies greatly on travel for their economy and without it, can cause major harm towards them. Another example are the Galapagos islands. As stated earlier, Ecuador has put regulations

on tourism due to the high amount of visitors but even with limited tourists, it is still one of the main economic drivers for the area.

Tourism has many benefits that greatly outweigh its negative effects. From exposing people to new cultures and allowing them to become educated and aware, to helping small communities boost their economies and develop, traveling is a major part of life globally and will only continue to be. For anything to be good, it has to be regulated and balanced and that applies to tourism as well. As we improve our ways and make it more sustainable, tourism will dominate the world and help everyone in many different ways.

A-13

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770004670437

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

- A position is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*Everything has its pro's and con's but for tourism, the benefits greatly outweigh the drawbacks*).
- Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument. Two ideas provide structure: the combination of culture and entertainment and the economic drive. A counterclaim focused on negative impact to local communities and the environment is tucked between.
- Purposeful and varied transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs. Basic external transitions (*To start off*, *To continue*; *Lastly*) and succinct topic sentences are used to begin each paragraph. Purposeful internal transitions connect ideas (*not only is popular because...but also*; *This shows that*; *Evidently*; *However*; *This is a great example of*; *This states that*; *As this happens*; *Another example*; *To clarify*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness. The introduction provides appropriate context, describing the significant role tourism plays in the global economy while hinting to the ideas to be explored (*experience new things such as learn a cultures history or enjoy places natural environment while also boosting those local communities economically*). A reasoned conclusion calls for some balance and control, reiterates ideas, and appropriately weighs the pros and cons while looking to the future (*traveling is a major part of life globally and will only continue to be*).

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

- Logical development demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing with text evidence, paraphrasing, and synthesis. The argument builds, first explaining that most travel to relax, learn, and experience different traditions. Florida is used as an example (*one of the most poplar states in the U.S.A to visit, not only to popular because of its theme parts and beaches, but also because of its history and communities*). Extension continues to explain why this is important (*tourism allows for us to improve our cultural awareness and understanding which will not only bring people closer, but also traditions*).
- Relevant, integrated evidence from all sources lends credibility to the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are met. Three counterclaims are identified (*tourism will harm the environment and have negative effects on the citizens economically and life-wise*). Address includes a concession that sometimes this can occur, but that the benefits outweigh as long as tourism is *managed responsibly and sustainably*. Source-based information is used to rebut describing how Ecuador has placed limits on tourism balancing these interests.
- Evidence is appropriately cited (*In source 1; (Paragraph 4)*).

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

- Integration of academic vocabulary demonstrates clear expression of ideas (*boosting; evolves; sustainably; constricting*).

- Moments of more skillful sentence structure are present, but overall grade-appropriate language facility is demonstrated.
- Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions. A few one-off errors are present.
- A reasoned and optimistic tone and voice are appropriate overall for the response.

A-14

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002040711

Score: 4/4/4

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

The beautiful beaches and cities of France or the dazzling northern lights in Iceland. These places seem like the top destination for many people interested in traveling. Whether in their own country or out, thousands of people travel each year. In 2016, 1.2 billion trips were made around the world. As tourism increases, the new cultures and wonderful landscapes pull many people to these places where they can experience something completely different from their home town. The ability a new place can be the highlight of many people's lives. The benefits of tourism do outweigh its drawbacks.

To begin with, the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks because tourism supplies jobs and helps economically in many countries. Smaller countries like Jamaica or the Bahamas rely on money for tourism to generate their economy. These countries have a small amount of available jobs they can produce, but tourism increases the amount of availability and opens up new jobs for citizens. In the article, "Managing overtourism an increasing feature in global travel" the author states, "Tourism accounts for around 10 percent of the world's annual GDP, bringing hard currency into many countries that desperately need it" (Pylas). Basically, Pylas is saying that a large amount of countries' economies rely on the use of tourism to supply money. Many travel destinations do not have access to more jobs. These countries are normally surrounded by beaches or mountains, which are not the easiest places to create jobs for people. However, those are great places to draw tourists to. Imagine, a nice long stroll on the beach, the warm feeling of the sun and the breeze coming from the trees. A complete feeling of relaxation. Beaches can supply jobs like, a restaurant waiter, a tour company, hotel benefits, etc. For these countries, they need people to stay there. Tourism plays a huge role in their economy and their job availability.

To commence, tourism's benefits outweigh its drawbacks because new places introduce people to new cultures and ways of life. Traveling to even a new state can show someone something new. Every area has different foods, accents, and activities that can be done. Florida has beaches and theme parks. While, a place like Colorado has skiing and a beautiful downtown area. Tourism allows people to experience something they have not been able to before. In the article, "The Economic and Social Implications of Tourism" the author states, "...every year families and school groups follow the path of the Freedom Writers, a group of civil rights activists who rode integrated buses to call attention to segregation in the South" (Grant and Westenberg). These students get to experience and understand a new perspective of what life was like for black women in the South. This gives those students a new appreciation for how difficult life was in the past. Traveling between a country can give someone a whole new look at people's lives and traveling to a whole new country gives a person an even bigger look. For instance, a young American woman has saved up for years so she can finally enjoy her trip to Dubai. While she is there, she sees the strict laws of the dominant religion there. Women must not show any skin or hair on their bodies, something the American woman was not used to. Tourism enhances the ability to show people different ways of life and culture.

Some may argue that, tourism is damaging the environment of countries. There is such a large amount of people that travel to these really small countries. It is hard for a small country, like the Bahamas, to protect their natural environment with the obstacle of all the tourists. Many ancient cities in Europe are getting destroyed because of the heavy amount of people that try and see them. The article, "Despite Efforts, Some Tours Do Leave Footprints", states, "...Galapagos National Park officials announced with great fanfare that they had prohibited Celebrity Cruise Line's Expedition.. the temporary ban aimed to penalize Celebrity for letting some of its crew members illegally fish for shark last year" (Ellperin). Basically, Ellperin states that the cruise line took advantage of a place that was not theirs and as a punishment, they can no longer be in the water. This shows that countries are getting taken advantage of. However, this does not mention that these countries are not enforcing laws they have set in. Many countries have laws set in already to stop something like this to happen again except they fail to enforce these set in rules. Almost like telling everyone to wear dresscode, but never dresscoding anyone. In the article, "Despite Efforts,

Some "Tours Do Leave Footprints" the author states, "While some companies have devoted considerable time and expense to protecting the very ecosystems they market to their clients, other firms are not always so careful" (Eliperin). In essence Eliperin is stating that these countries do not always make an effort to watch for tourists. Without these heavy enforcement of laws, tourists might not always know what could be damaging for these countries. If countries were to enforce their laws more, the damage to their ecosystems will not be so heavy. The laws should be emphasized to prevent such tragedies and harm. This will show people how important it can be to protect the local environment.

Conclusively, the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks because it supplies jobs and helps economically and introduces people to new cultures. Tourism is increasing and will continue to increase as traveling becomes more common. People will learn to love the different cultures around the world and will really get to see a new perspective. The world needs tourism and if it was to ever disappear the economy would be crushed. People should make an effort to travel to more places around them and really get to see a new life.

A-14

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002040711

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

- The position is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*The benefits of tourism do outweigh its drawbacks*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument. Ideas progress from economic benefits to creating cultural awareness. Counterclaims are then addressed.
- Transitions are used to create cohesion. External transitions paired with topic sentences give an indication where each paragraph is going (*To begin with; To commence; Some may argue that; Conclusively*). Internal transitions are purposeful, clarifying relationships between ideas (*These countries; Basically, Pyles is saying; However; While; These students; This gives; Basically, Ellperin states that; In essence Elperin is stating that*). Paragraph-concluding sentences provide additional structure, encapsulating the main idea of each paragraph.
- The introduction and conclusion are effective. The introduction provides helpful context relating to the scope of tourism (*1.2 billion trips*) and paints scenes that might create the desire to travel. The conclusion is slightly weaker, reiterating ideas, and connecting them to the argument.

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes original writing combined with paraphrasing, text evidence, and examples that are appropriate to support the argument. Nuanced understanding and greater depth of analysis is demonstrated. For example, in body paragraph one a premise is established: that smaller countries like Jamaica and the Bahamas have fewer jobs outside the tourist industry available because of their geographical characteristics (*surrounded by beaches or mountains*). Extension continues, explaining that these same limitations also create tourist desire to visit (*imagine, a nice long stroll on the beach, the warm feeling of the sun and the breeze coming from the trees*). Cultural tourism is similarly developed with additional examples (*Colorado has skiing and a beautiful downtown area; strict laws in Dubai relating to womens' dress*).
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are not met. Although there is only one counterclaim raised focusing on the damage to the environment, it is thoroughly rebutted using source information and examples (*dresscode*).
- Evidence from multiple sources is smoothly integrated and lends credibility to the essay overall.
- Evidence is appropriately cited by citing the article title and parenthetical reference (*Ellperin*).

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Vocabulary is academic and furthers ideas, at times well beyond grade level (*stroll; dominant; enhances*).

- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas. Greater control in sentence formation is demonstrated with sentence complexity.
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas. Only a few minor errors are present, primarily in spelling.
- Tone and voice are consistently measured and strengthen the overall response. An authoritative and informed tone is maintained throughout.

A-15

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005401553

Score: 4/4/4

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

Many people wonder what it's like to live in a tourist city or state. As someone who actually does live in a touristic city and state, it is not as fun and glorious as it sounds. While living closer to attractions and getting theme park discounts from time to time is a benefit, what's the point in going to these attractions if millions of people are there crowding it? What would be the point in going to see something that has been degrading in quality due to the massive amounts of people who go there daily? Especially if the city is less prioritized than the attractions it brings. The pros don't outweigh the cons at all! This argument is the same for all touristic cities. Tourism has many economic, environmental, and societal impacts that are harmful to many cities and countries around the world. Tourism, in itself, does not have enough benefits to outweigh its detrimental drawbacks to the Earth.

The first wave of overtourism's impacts to the Earth starts with economy. With the economy, it's not all black and white. Tourism brings many economic benefits to a lot of countries. Some countries desperately rely on tourism as a main form of money. However, is over-reliance on tourism always helpful? Unlike agriculture and manufacturing, tourism is not something you can control easily. There are many factors to it, such as weather. According to "The Economic and Social Implications of Tourism" (an article by Griffith Grant and Janie Westenberg), 20% of Jamaica's economy is powered by tourism. However, Jamaica's tourism is heavily affected by the rain. After all, no one wants to visit the beaches when it's raining. This back and forth in their weather makes it extremely difficult to manage tourism (paragraph 2). Additionally, over-tourism can damage the quality of an attraction overtime (which will be discussed later). If this happens, people will stop showing up to these attractions. What can countries that heavily rely on tourism do to stop the poverty that will begin? Not very much. The more countries begin to rely on tourism, the less their chances of escaping poverty will be when the attraction is no longer popular or well sustained.

The sustainment of attraction quality brings us to the second wave of overtourism's impacts; the environmental impacts. Earth's environments are rich and diverse. Deserts, oceans, swampland, forests, and more beautiful forms of nature. However, these forms of nature are often damaged by the amounts of tourists who visit these places. In the article "Despite Efforts, Some Tours Do Leave Footprints" (an article written by Juliet Eilperin), many countries like Galapagos have claimed to be "controlling" their abundance in tourism. However, cruise lines and other forms of tourism that the government had claimed were "shut down" were still in business (paragraphs 5-6). This type of negligence towards the problems that arise due to overtourism is what is continuously damaging the quality of the locations. Galapagos is a wonderful place to visit. However, so many people are visiting Galapagos that the ecosystem is being harmed. About 25,000 thousand people inhabit the islands, but the amount of tourists is not a small number. About 100,000 people go to Galapagos every year and crowd the area, causing harm to the ecosystem. And that's not even the worst of it, because soon over 150,000 people a year will be visiting, and who knows how much the number of inhabitants and residents will go up (paragraphs 10, 12, and 14)? This, however, does not only taints the environment of Galapagos and many other tourist capitals just like it. As stated earlier, people stop showing up to tourist attractions if they are not well sustained. Ironically, overtourism also threatens the future of tourism. This type of detriment to the environment can cause a detriment to our vacations and travels.

Then, you have the third wave of overtourism's harmful impacts to planet Earth. The societal impacts that overtourism brings might be one of the most damaging. Take Venice for example; the people there have become absolutely sick of the overtourism. In "Managing Overtourism an Increasing Feature of Global Travel" (an article written by Pan Paylas), there is an increasing resentment for tourism amongst many communities, such as Venice and its residents. Venice is widely popular. In fact, it is one of the most famous cities in the world. Many people visit the city throughout the day, and that becomes a problem to the people who actually live there. The quality of life for inhabitants is severely harmed due to the people who show up. Many just don't consider that Venice is an actual community and not just some location that was only built for them to constantly visit and crowd

(paragraphs 18-22). Frankly, it is quite unfair to inhabitants. Many people argue that tourism is extremely fun for others and that we should not be making tourists feel bad about wanting to vacation. Vacations are fine, but not considering residents and the quality and importance of a city is extremely selfish. That's why many have tried to establish laws and policies that help tourists treat Venice like a city and not a "marble beach" (paragraph 33). Things like these must be enforced among several countries in order to let residents lives be improved.

When many people think of tourism, they think about themselves and how much it good it does to them. However, when you step back to think about the damage that tourism brings to the economy, enviornment, and society, you realize that tourism has more drawbacks than it does benefits. And if we can identify the problems with tourism, we can look for a solution. Maybe one day, if we spread more awareness about this topic, the script will flip, and there will indeed be more benefits to tourism. As someone who lives in a tourist destination, that would truly be an amazing world to live in.

A-15

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770005401553

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

- A position idea is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*Tourism, in itself, does not have enough benefits to outweigh its detrimental drawbacks to the Earth*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument. Organizational structure is provided by three ideas: economic ramifications, overtourism's impact on the environment, and overtourism's societal impacts to the local population.
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs and create cohesion. External transitions with topic sentences are creatively phrased as various "waves" of tourism's impacts. Substantial internal transitions guide the reader in making connections between ideas (*However; Unlike; Afterall; Additionally; If this happens; for example; In fact; Frankly; That's why; Things like these*).
- The introduction and conclusion effectively enhance and frame the essay. The introduction provides personal experience with living in a tourist location (*not as fun and glorious as it sounds*). Rhetorical questions preview overcrowding issues facing many local residents. The conclusion effectively touches on the ideas presented with appropriate summary and synthesis.

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes original writing combined with paraphrasing, text evidence, and examples appropriate to support the argument. Higher level and deeper thinking is demonstrated throughout as each point builds on the preceding one. It is argued that Jamaica's economy is mostly based on tourism. The country's weather creates substantial uncertainty, which can reduce tourism (*no one wants to visit beaches when it's raining*). If tourism dries up, poverty will follow and countries will not have the resources to react (*The more countries begin to rely on tourism, the less their chances of escaping poverty will be when the attraction is no longer popular or well sustained*).
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is smoothly integrated, lending credibility to the essay. Paraphrasing of source with parenthetical citation contributes to this.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are met. The economic benefit of tourism is noted in body paragraph one. Rebuttal explains, using source support, the pitfalls of overreliance on tourism revenue by smaller countries. An additional counterclaim notes that vacations are fun and that tourists should not be made *to feel bad about wanting to vacation*. The need for vacations is conceded, but the point is made that to ignore residents and the quality and importance of the tourist city is selfish. Laws that limit tourist exploitation of cities are suggested (*enforced among several countries in order to let residents lives be improved*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited through article titles and subsequent attribution parenthetically (*paragraphs 18-22*).

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*detrimental; sustainment; taints; inhabitants; negligence*).
- Multiple examples of skillful use of varied sentence structure contribute to the fluidity of ideas.
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas. Just a few one-off errors are present.
- Tone and voice strengthen the overall response. An authoritative and knowledgeable tone is maintained based on personal experience living in a tourist destination.

A-16

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002057561

Score: 4/4/4

Prompt:

Write an argumentative essay about whether the benefits of tourism outweigh its drawbacks. Use Information from the sources in your essay,

Response:

A nice, cooling breeze flows through the air while many relax on the beach, freeing their minds of all their worries. Crowds stand in awe, gazing up at a historic monument, reflecting in its great importance. Tourism is a staple of the lives of so many, and for very good reason. The benefits of tourism may appear to solely lie in those of whom who are on vacation, but in reality they go much deeper. Ranging from boosted national and international economies and great job creation to increased cultural awareness leading to a decrease in bigotry, the vast benefits of tourism far outweigh its drawbacks.

A crucial yet undeniably underappreciated positive resulting from tourism is the incredible boost it gives the world economy as a whole, which can be found even more prevalent in specific areas. The article "Managing overtourism an increasing feature of global travel" by Pan Pylas states, "many destinations rely on tourism as a primary source of jobs and prosperity. Tourism accounts for around 10 percent of the world's annual GDP, bringing hard currency into many countries that desperately need it." When electing politicians, the topic at the forefront of voters' minds are if they believe they will help the economy and create jobs. This question should be at the forefront of the tourist discussion as well, with the clear answer being yes, tourism does give the economy a major boost and creates hundreds of millions of jobs. One example of an area that receives vast benefits from this industry can be found in the article "The Economic and Social Implications of Tourism" by Griffith Grant and Janie Westenberg, when it informs, "Tourism in Jamaica, for instance, generates approximately \$4 billion each year, or 20% of the country's total economy." Another example can be found later in the same article when it states, "In Florida, for example, tourism is one of the most important factors in the state's economy. In 2016, out-of-state visitors spent nearly \$112 billion." These insanely high sums of money can be used by the Florida and Jamaica governments to make incredibly important improvements like boosting the school system, or providing better policing, or granting greater monetary benefits to those who need it most. All of these great positives vastly improve the life of those who live in these areas, and cannot happen without tourism. Some are misinformed on the topic of tourism and claim that the industry has an inherently negative impact on the environment and thus should be duly stopped. This claim is false in multiple ways. First of all, the overall environmental impact is an incredibly hard metric to measure and shouldn't be stated as clear fact. Secondly, (and to some more importantly,) the few environmental issues that can be created by tourism is completely paid for and fixed by a mere portion the funds gained through the industry. This information is backed in the article "Despite Efforts, Some Tours Do Leave Footprints," when it reveals that "Alan Tye, interim director of sciences at the Charles Darwin Research Station," correctly says, "...if it weren't for ecotourism, there wouldn't be any money for conservation." Due to tourism's wide appeal to all of those whom need a decent break from whatever struggles life brings them, the industry earns incredible sums of money. This results in the incredible positive of great economic benefits from the regional to the international level and the creation of hundreds of millions of jobs worldwide.

On top of that, tourism also results in a deepened cultural understanding from those with completely different backgrounds. This in turn means a great decrease in the social issues of racism, xenophobia, and many more. Grant and Westenberg's article states, "... tourism is not just about economic impact; travelling to new places teaches people about different cultures and ways of life. As Mark Twain once said, 'Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.'" Social issues like those of bigots are constantly addressed with great concern and an overall agreement of the falsehood of their beliefs. Exposure to the different cultures of people one may be biased about can really grant those people with the knowledge and experience required to end those biases. Observing people in their regular every-day life as well as viewing the artifacts on monuments behind a culture's greatest traditions and value results in a greater understanding of that culture. The benefits are not solely gained by the ones taking the vacation. A popular talking point for those with the position that tourism's negatives outweigh its vast positives is the idea that the people who permanently reside in the area being visited resent the tourists' presence. This could not be further from the truth. Tourists enjoy going to local farmers markets and other community staples. "These local events also create pride

In one's town, community and culture. ... these personal exchanges between locals and visitors go a long way toward fostering improved cultural awareness and understanding. ... Travel and tourism make money, but they also foster priceless experiences that can bring people from opposite ends of the world closer together," (Grant and Westenburg). Tourism allows for a great mixing pot of cultures and in turn allows for those cultures to live in greater harmony with each other in all facets of life.

Tourism is viewed by many as merely a fantastic way to escape their troubles for a period of time and go experience another place. This alone is a great benefit to the minds of these tourists, but more, even greater positives of tourism lie beneath the surface. Whether discussing the great economic boosting and job creation provided by the tourism industry, or the social and cultural improvements in the lives of both the locals and tourists due to their interaction, the fact of tourism's impact shines clear: The vast benefits of tourism far outweigh its miniscule drawbacks.

A-16

Grade 9 Writing ARG

Lithocode: 770002057561

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

- A position is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*The vast benefits of tourism far outweigh its drawbacks*).
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument. Two ideas are previewed in the introduction and provide the structure (*boosted economies and job creation; increased cultural awareness leading to a decrease in bigotry*). Counterclaims are embedded at the end of each body paragraph (environmental damage and local resentment).
- Purposeful transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs, creating cohesion. Body paragraphs are introduced with clear topic sentence. Internal transitions are purposeful and create cohesion between ideas (*This question; One example; Another example; Some are misinformed; This claim is false in multiple ways. First of all; Secondly; Due to; This results in; This in turn means*).
- An effective introduction and conclusion enhance the essay. The introduction brings in the reader by painting a picture of a tourist location. Concepts that will be explored are previewed. The conclusion returns to these concepts and the position (*This alone is a great benefit [escaping one's troubles] to the minds of these tourists, but more, even greater positives of tourism like beneath the surface*).

4 – Development – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes original writing combined with paraphrasing, text evidence, and examples that are appropriate to support the argument. Ideas build upon one another. Relevant source information informs about the substantial role tourism plays in the global economy. Importance of economic concerns is then explained (*at the forefront of voters' minds are if they believe they will help the economy and create jobs*). More source information is smoothly integrated relating to the impact on Jamaica's and Florida's economies. The benefits that can be realized with this revenue are then identified (*like boosting the school system, or providing better policing, or granting greater monetary benefits to those who need it*). The development of the cultural understanding point is equally well developed.
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is smoothly integrated, lending credibility to the essay.
- Grade-level expectations for counterclaims (two or more with source used to rebut) are met. Two counterclaims are identified. First, tourism harms the environment. This counterclaim is thoroughly addressed using source-derived information (difficulty in measuring environmental impact means it shouldn't be stated as fact and a portion of tourist revenue can be used to fix). Second, locals resent tourists' presence. This counterclaim is also equally well rebutted using source information (farmer's markets bring people together and foster local pride).
- Evidence is appropriately cited through article title.

4 – Language – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary throughout strengthens and furthers ideas (*staple; bigotry; forefront; monetary benefits; wide appeal; prevalent*). Some exaggerating adverbs are slightly overused (*undeniably; insanely; vastly*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas. More complexity and variety in sentence control is demonstrated throughout.
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas. Only a few minor errors are present.
- A consistent and authoritative tone and voice strengthen the response.