



English 2

Sample Text-Dependent Writing Item

To Inform

Table of Contents

General Introduction	1
Trait 1	1
Trait 2	2
Purpose	2
To Inform	3
Trait 1	3
Trait 2	7
Text-Dependent Writing (TDW) Question	10
Sample Student Responses and Annotations	11

General Introduction

The South Carolina State Department of Education provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instruction aligned with the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards*. The text-dependent-writing (TDW) sampler was designed as a resource for South Carolina educators to provide guidance in classroom instruction.

This document contains an example of an informative TDW task from the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP). The TDW task was written to align with the SC English Language Arts Academic Standards. The passage set and prompt were reviewed by a committee of South Carolina educators to ensure appropriateness for the intended grade in terms of text complexity, wording, topic, and bias.

The TDW item is composed of a reading passage(s) and a writing task related to the passage(s). The item requires that students closely read and analyze the passage(s) and write a response to the task while drawing upon evidence in the passage(s). Each student's response is then scored using the South Carolina EOCEP TDW Scoring Guidelines.

Embedded within the TDW item is a mode-specific writer's checklist. Students can use the embedded writer's checklist to help them plan, write, and proofread their responses.

The TDW sampler contains student responses that illustrate score points described in the two-trait holistic rubric and represent a point range of 4 (highest) to 1 (lowest) for Trait 1, and a 2 (highest) to 0 (lowest) for Trait 2. These responses contain a combination of reader-scored responses and teacher committee-scored responses established during range finding.

Trait 1

This trait examines a student's ability to establish a controlling idea, support the idea with evidence from the text(s), and elaborate on the controlling idea using facts, definitions, details, and/or quotes. Each response is scored holistically. The total score point is determined by demonstrating most of the descriptors in each domain: structure, development, and coherence.

- 4 points: The 4-point response is a **well-developed informative** response that examines a topic in-depth and skillfully conveys ideas and information clearly based on a text(s).
- 3 points: The 3-point response is a **complete informative** response that examines a topic and presents related information based on a text(s).
- 2 points: The 2-point response is an **incomplete or oversimplified** response that minimally attempts to examine a topic and present information based on a text(s).
- 1 point: The 1-point response is a **weak attempt to write an informative** response that may be loosely based on a text(s).

Trait 2

This trait examines a student's ability to demonstrate control of language usage, conventions, and mechanics as embodied in ELA.E2.C.4 of the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards*. Students are scored as *Meets Expectations* or *Does Not Meet Expectations*.

- 2 points: Demonstrates a **command** of language usage and conventions.
- 1 point: Demonstrates a **weak command** of language usage and conventions.
- 0 points: Demonstrates a **pattern of errors** that significantly interfere with meaning.

Purpose

This document is intended to be a resource for educators; it is not designed to be a practice test for students. The sample items are examples of college- and career-ready assessment items. The EOCEP assesses content standards in a variety of ways. This document does not include all item types or standards.

To Inform

Trait 1

4 points – A well-developed informative response that examines a topic in-depth and skillfully conveys ideas and information clearly based on a text(s).

Structure

- Effectively introduces the topic
- Includes a focused controlling idea that is skillfully maintained throughout the response
- Uses an organizational structure that effectively strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea
- Uses varied transitions to effectively connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts
- Provides an effective introduction and a concluding statement or section that supports the information presented

Development

- Effectively demonstrates a thorough understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s)
- Effectively develops the topic using relevant facts, definitions, details, and quotes
- Smoothly integrates elaboration of thoughts which includes original student thinking combined with summary, paraphrasing, and text evidence

Coherence

- Integrates precise vocabulary to skillfully strengthen and further ideas
- Skillful use of varied sentence types and phrasing that contributes to the fluidity of ideas
- Uses a voice that enhances the overall response
- Establishes and purposely maintains a tone and style appropriate to the task and purpose

3 points – A complete informative response that examines a topic and presents related information based on a text(s).

Structure

- Introduces the topic
- Includes a focused controlling idea that is consistently maintained throughout the response
- Uses an organizational structure that strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea
- Uses varied transitions to connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts
- Provides a sufficient introduction and a concluding statement or section that supports the information presented

Development

- Demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s)
- Develops the topic adequately using relevant facts, definitions, details, and/or quotes
- Provides adequate elaboration of thoughts which includes original student thinking combined with summary, paraphrasing, and/or text evidence

Coherence

- Integrates vocabulary to strengthen and further ideas
- Uses varied sentence types and phrasing to contribute to the fluidity of ideas
- Establishes and maintains a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose

2 points – An incomplete or oversimplified response that minimally attempts to examine a topic and present information based on a text(s).

Structure

- Introduces the topic
- Controlling idea may be unclear or insufficiently sustained throughout the response
- Uses an organizational structure that may be repetitive or inconsistent
- Uses transitions to connect ideas but cohesion is inconsistent
- Introduction and concluding statement or section may be repetitive or ineffective

Development

- Demonstrates a partial or incomplete understanding of the task and topic
- Inconsistently develops the topic with little relevant information and may over-rely on the text
- Elaborates on thoughts but ideas may be repetitive or loosely related to the controlling idea

Coherence

- Vocabulary and word choice may be limited or inconsistently used, showing a partial command of the expression of ideas
- Sentence structure may be simplistic or lacking grade-appropriate language
- Establishes a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose but does not maintain throughout the response

1 point – A weak attempt to write an informative response that may be loosely based on a text(s).

Structure

- Controlling idea may be confusing or absent, demonstrating a misunderstanding of the topic or task
- Demonstrates little to no organizational structure
- Transitions may be missing or confusing
- Introduction and concluding statement or section may be missing or unrelated to the response

Development

- Response may be too brief to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or may consist mostly of a summary of the text(s)
- Evidence from the text(s) may be missing or confusing
- Elaboration of thoughts may consist of vague or confusing ideas

Coherence

- Vocabulary and word choice may be unclear or confusing
- Sentence structure may be confusing
- Style and tone may be inappropriate to the task and purpose

Trait 2

2 points – The student’s response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety
- Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning

1 point – The student’s response demonstrates a weak command of language usage and conventions.

- Demonstrates an inconsistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- Has patterns of fragments, run-ons, and other sentence structure errors that interfere with meaning
- Has frequent errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

0 points – The student’s response demonstrates a pattern of errors that significantly interfere with meaning.

Read the passage. Then respond to the TDW task.

An Overview of NFTs

Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) remain a mystery to many Americans but are becoming an increasingly popular type of electronic purchase, especially for younger people. To fully understand what a non-fungible token is, we first need to understand the meaning of the word fungible. Something that is fungible can be exchanged or replaced by another equivalent item. For example, a dollar can be exchanged for any other one-dollar bill or for four quarters or ten dimes. However, something that is non-fungible is unique and cannot be replaced or simply exchanged for anything else, even something similar.

Artwork, for example, is non-fungible. Every work of art is unique. A fake Picasso painting would be exposed by art experts as non-fungible—not equal in value to the original. Even another artist’s painting that is of similar quality and financial value to the Picasso painting is considered non-fungible. It is not exactly like the original.

A Digital Asset

Instead of being an actual physical item like a painting, an NFT is a digital file of something original. It comes with a guarantee that it is one of a kind or one of a very limited number. It is a newly created work expressly designed as an NFT. Such digital assets include art, music, videos, and items related to gaming. Gaming items could be new outfits for avatars (video game figures) or content that allows gamers to discover new stories and worlds. Even tweets can be preserved and sold as NFTs. An NFT is basically a collectible item in digital form that comes with proof of authenticity.

Since NFTs are not physical commodities, owners can display them only electronically on various devices, on social media, or in digital profiles. Some collectors purchase high-resolution screens with frames to display an NFT on a home or office wall. Also, some gallery owners are developing NFT collections for public display.

NFT purchases require the use of something known as “blockchain” technology—the same technology used with cryptocurrency. Blockchain technology allows various kinds of assets to be exchanged electronically. It is used to transfer ownership from one person or business to another. Unlike cash, cryptocurrency is not currently regulated by the government or by traditional banks; it is unregulated and works throughout the world. People who want to buy an NFT must first purchase a kind of cryptocurrency called Ethereum, which they store in a digital wallet, or e-wallet. They can then use cryptocurrency to purchase an NFT.

Popular NFTs

Artworks are a particularly popular type of NFT purchase and have been a boon for artists, who often have a difficult time selling their work. One website offers various kinds of art, including photography, illustration, animation, and pixel art. Many celebrities are also taking advantage of the NFT boom to sell digital assets. Some have sold art. Some have sold early memories of their lives. One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show. The money from the sale of the show was donated to charity.

NFTs also include videos. One popular skateboarder offered a video of himself performing one of his famous tricks. Sports videos are popular, and so are unique animations, short videos, and other short movies. It is an area open to almost anyone who is creative with a camera. Currently, the most popular NFTs include sports video reels. One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000. There are many other NFTs that feature sports highlights, each one unique. While some are extremely expensive, others sell for less than ten dollars.

Music recordings are popular items too. In 2021, a band released an album as an NFT. Some people in the music industry believe that NFTs are the future of music. Ryan McCulloch, a digital marketing manager at Berklee College of Music, says, “Whenever you decide to invest in an NFT, normally you end up gaining value from it.” He believes that selling NFTs is a good way for musicians to avoid being exploited by record labels.

Buying an NFT

NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and to create or buy NFTs. In 2022, the marketplaces had around 250,000 active users each month.

Art, music videos, and other NFTs can be sold when owners want to “cash in” their investments. When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit. The marketplace also takes a small percentage of the sale price. Owners who sell the NFTs keep the remaining profit. Some NFTs will be sold and resold numerous times.

What Is the Future of NFTs?

Every investment is risky. That is certainly true of NFTs. Will the NFT market grow, or will people lose interest? One analysis predicts an 18.55% increase of NFT sales in the next five years. As always, however, no one knows exactly what the future will bring.

Interesting NFT Facts—A Quick Glance 2014

2014
First appearance of NFTs in the marketplace
\$91 million
The highest valued NFT as of 2022
25%
Percentage of Americans who have no idea what an NFT is

Text-Dependent Writing (TDW) Question

Read the passage. Then write an informative response for your teacher that explains the reasons NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors. Use evidence from the passage and thoughtful elaboration to develop your response.

Sample Student Responses and Annotations

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point

Trait 1: 4

Trait 2: 2

Imagine you are a struggling artist, constantly being exploited by record labels and large companies, but other artists around you have been whispering the tales of NFTs, and what they can do for your career. The only problem is you have no idea what an NFT is, much less do you know how to take advantage of one. Approximately 25% of Americans throughout the country also do not have the slightest idea of what a NFT is, but for the rest of the contry, NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors for many different reasons. A few of these reasons include the fact that these NFTs are digital, the fact that they can boost profit for artists, and the fact that they are being sold by famous people around the world.

The first reason why NFTs are gaining interest and excitement in many places is that they are digital. As more and more days go by, our world continues to integrate more and more technology into our society, and lots of people are beginning to prefer digital assets over physical ones. Also, when purchasing these NFTs, cryptocurrency is used. This allows for easier transitions between owners during the selling process, and crytocurrency isn't regulated by the government or traditional banks. One writer puts it this way, "NFT purchases require the use of something known as 'blockchain' technology-the same technology used with cryptocurrency ... It is used to transfer ownership from one person or business to another. Unlike cash, crytocurrency is not currently regulated by the government or by traditional banks; it is unregulated and works throughout the world"(An Overview of NFTs). Because NFTs are digital, they can be traded and bought from across the world with ease, as physical assets cannot. This generates lots of excitement, specifically for collectors, as now they have no restrictions due to time or space. This furthers the point that NFTs are easier to trade and buy throughout the world because they are a digital asset and are bought with digital currency.

Additionally, NFTs continue to gain interest and excitement among artists and collectors because they can boost profits for artists. When an artist sells and NFT, they not only get the money from the initial sale of the NFT, but they also can get a percentage of the next sale. One author puts it this way, "When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit...Some NFTs will be sold and resold numerous times" (An Overview of NFTs). Artists end up making money over and over again from one sale of an NFT because of the fact that everytime the NFT is sold again, they get a percentage of the profit, and NFTs are commonly resold many, many times. This creates a stream of profit because the profit for the artist doesn't automatically stop once the art is sold the first time. This generates lots of interests among artists because of the possibility of the continous profit coming in for them, whereas if they used a record label or were to just have sold a physical asset of art, they may receive less profit. This generates excitement among collectors because it creates a possible profit for them as well.

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point 4/2 (continued)

Furthermore, NFTs are rapidly gaining attention and generating excitement among artists and collectors because not only regular citizens are using NFTs, but celebrities, that people look up and adore, are taking advantage of the opportunity that NFTs present. Typically when celebrities take an interest in a certain thing, many other people do as well, a typical example of hierarchial diffusion in societies. There are many examples of celebrities taking advatage of NFTs, a few of which include, "One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show ... One popular skateboarder offered a video of himself performing one of his famous tricks ... One video highlight reel of a popular basketball players sold for \$208,000" (An Overview of NFTs). Those are only a few examples of how many different NFTs are being sold by celebrities across the world. Because many of the people adore and look up to these celebrities, people would love to be able to own a piece of their lives of a collectible. This generates interest among collectors because NFTs make it easier to and more accesible to get a collectible form a persons's favorite celebrity.

All in all, NFTs are continuing to generate excitement and interest among artists and collectors for various reasons. A few of these reasons include, the fact that these NFTs are digital, the fact that they can boost profit for artists, and the fact that they are being sold by famous people around the world. NFTs may end up being a large part of our future, as this creates an easier, more cost effective way to collect or sell art or collectibles for people across the globe.

Sample 1 Annotation Score Point 4/2

Trait 1 Score Point 4

Exceeds Expectations: A well-developed informative response that examines a topic in-depth and skillfully conveys ideas and information clearly based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Effectively introduces the topic, engaging the reader by presenting NFTs as a mystery, thereby inviting the reader to become informed.**
 - “Imagine you are a struggling artist, constantly being exploited by record labels and large companies, but other artists around you have been whispering the tales of NFTs, and what they can do for your career. The only problem is you have no idea what an NFT is, much less do you know how to take advantage of one. Approximately 25% of Americans throughout the country also do not have the slightest idea of what a NFT is. . .”
- **Includes a focused controlling idea that is skillfully maintained throughout the response.**
 - “. . .NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors for many different reasons. A few of these reasons include the fact that these NFTs are digital, the fact that they can boost profit for artists, and the fact that they are being sold by famous people around the world.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that effectively strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea. The body of the response provides developed supporting ideas, and the concluding statements of each paragraph reinforce the ideas presented in the topic sentences.**
 - “The first reason why NFTs are gaining interest and excitement in many places is that they are digital. As more and more days go by, our world continues to integrate more and more technology into our society, and lots of people are beginning to prefer digital assets over physical ones.”
 - “Additionally, NFTs continue to gain interest and excitement among artists and collectors because they can boost profits for artists.”
 - “Furthermore, NFTs are rapidly gaining attention and generating excitement among artists and collectors because not only regular citizens are using NFTs, but celebrities, that people look up and adore, are taking advantage of the opportunity that NFTs present. Typically when celebrities take an interest in a certain thing, many other people do as well, a typical example of hierarchial diffusion in societies.”
- **Uses varied transitions to effectively connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts.**
 - “The first reason. . .” “As more and more days. . .” “Also. . .” “This allows. . .” “One writer puts it. . .” “Because NFTs. . .” “This furthers the point. . .” “Additionally. . .” “When an artist. . .” “This creates. . .” “This generates. . .” “. . .whereas. . .” “Furthermore. . .” “Typically when. . .” “Because many. . .” “All in all. . .”

- **Provides an effective introduction and a concluding statement or section that supports the information presented. The introduction is effective as it presents a scenario to engage the reader, then narrows to the controlling idea, while the conclusion reiterates ideas presented in the response, ending with a concluding statement.**
 - “. . .NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors for many different reasons. A few of these reasons include the fact that these NFTs are digital, the fact that they can boost profit for artists, and the fact that they are being sold by famous people around the world.”
 - “NFTs may end up being a large part of our future, as this creates an easier, more cost effective way to collect or sell art or collectibles for people across the globe.”

DEVELOPMENT

- **Effectively demonstrates a thorough understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s) by thoroughly developing ideas with elaboration that includes considerable original thinking, showing that the writer has a deep understanding of passage ideas.**
- **Effectively develops the topic using relevant facts, definitions, details, and quotes and paraphrased text.**
 - “. . .NFT purchases require the use of something known as ‘blockchain’ technology-the same technology used with cryptocurrency ... It is used to transfer ownership from one person or business to another. Unlike cash, cryptocurrency is not currently regulated by the government or by traditional banks; it is unregulated and works throughout the world. . .”
 - “When an artist sells an NFT, they not only get the money from the initial sale of the NFT, but they also can get a percentage of the next sale.”
 - “When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit...Some NFTs will be sold and resold numerous times. . .”
 - “One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show ... One popular skateboarder offered a video of himself performing one of his famous tricks ... One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000. . .”
- **Smoothly integrates elaboration of thoughts which includes original student thinking combined with summary, paraphrasing, and text evidence. For each supporting idea, the elaboration incorporates some paraphrased text details into the original thought.**
 - “As more and more days go by, our world continues to integrate more and more technology into our society, and lots of people are beginning to prefer digital assets over physical ones. Also, when purchasing these NFTs, cryptocurrency is used. This allows for easier transitions between owners during the selling process, and cryptocurrency isn’t regulated by the government or traditional banks. . .Because NFTs are digital, they can be traded and bought from across the world with ease, as physical assets cannot. This generates lots of excitement, specifically for collectors, as now they have no restrictions due to time or space. This furthers the point that NFTs are easier to trade and buy throughout the world because they are a digital asset and are bought with digital currency.”

- “Artists end up making money over and over again from one sale of an NFT because of the fact that everytime the NFT is sold again, they get a percentage of the profit, and NFTs are commonly resold many, many times. This creates a stream of profit because the profit for the artist doesn’t automatically stop once the art is sold the first time. This generates lots of interests among artists because of the possibility of the continous profiti coming in for them, whereas if they used a record label or were to just have sold a physical asset of art, they may receive less profit. This generates excitement among collectors because it creates a possible profit for them as well.”
- “Typically when celebrities take an interest in a certain thing, many other people do as well, a typical example of hierarchial diffusion in societies. . .Because many of the people adore and look up to these celebrities, people would love to be able to own a piece of their lives of a collectible. This generates interest among collectors because NFTs make it easier to and more accesible to get a collectible form a persons’s favorite celebrity.”

COHERENCE

- **Integrates precise vocabulary to skillfully strengthen and further ideas. Some examples are:**
 - “struggling,” “exploited,” “whispering,” “take advantage,” “slightest idea,” “specifically,” “digital currency,” “boost profits,” “stream of profit,” “automatically,” “adore,” “Typically,” “hierarchial diffusion,” “cost effective.”
- **Skillful use of varied sentence types and phrasing that contribute to the fluidity of ideas.**
 - “The first reason why NFTs are gaining interest and excitement in many places is that they are digital. As more and more days go by, our world continues to integrate more and more technology into our society, and lots of people are beginning to prefer digital assets over physical ones. Also, when purchasing these NFTs, cryptocurrency is used. This allows for easier transitions between owners during the selling process. . .”
- **Uses a voice that enhances the overall response.**
 - “Imagine you are a struggling artist, constantly being exploited by record labels and large companies, but other artists around you have been whispering the tales of NFTs, and what they can do for your career.”
- **Establishes and purposely maintains a tone and style appropriate to the task and purpose. The informative tone is established at the beginning of the response and is maintained throughout. Word choice and sentence structure create the writer’s style.**
 - “Typically when celebrities take an interest in a certain thing, many other people do as well, a typical example of hierarchial diffusion in societies.”

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The student's response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. There are minor spelling errors which do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “contry,” “cryptocurrency,” “everytime,” “continous,” “profti,” “hierarchial,” “advatage,” “accesible,” “form,” “persons’s.”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “The only problem is you have no idea what an NFT is, much less do you know how to take advantage of one.”
 - “Furthermore, NFTs are rapidly gaining attention and generating excitement among artists and collectors because not only regular citizens are using NFTs, but celebrities, that people look up and adore, are taking advantage of the opportunity that NFTs present.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “and” for an, “interests” for interest

Score Justification

- **There is an effective introduction, beginning with a relevant scenario to engage and encourage the reader to become informed. This scenario is gradually expanded to the controlling idea.**
- **The organizational structure effectively strengthens the response as a variety of transitions are used to connect and clarify ideas.**
- **There is an effective integration of source materials/evidence and related original elaboration.**
- **The skillful use of varied sentence types and the integration of precise vocabulary strengthen ideas and contribute to the fluidity of the response.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Instead of using large blocks of text quotes, evidence could be more smoothly integrated with the writer's original ideas.**

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point**Trait 1: 4****Trait 2: 2**

Anyone can walk up to a cashier and ask to exchange their dollar bill for change. A dollar bill is fungible, meaning it can be replaced or exchanged. An authentic Monet painting in a museum is non-fungible. There is nothing identical or equal to the painting for which it can be exchanged. As we advance in our technology, NFTs have begun to gain attention in the economy. Much like a painting, an NFT is unique and unable to be reproduced. Due to blockchain technology, NFTs can be purchased and transferred with a guarantee of authenticity. NFTs first appeared for sale in 2014, and since then collectors and artists have become excited for their potential. Their allure comes from being non-fungible, profitable, and independent.

Part of the excitement around NFTs comes from being non-fungible. Buyers are guaranteed that their purchase is owned solely by them. Long before NFTs, collectors bought famous artworks and other one-of-a-kind items at auctions for the thrill of owning something that is sought after, yet unable to be owned by anyone else. The NFT market is a modern version of this where young people are able to purchase one-of-a-kind digital items using cryptocurrency. They are often displayed by collectors on social media, in digital profiles, or on digital framed screens to be placed around one's home or in public galleries. According to the passage, "An Overview of NFTs", "It is an area open to almost anyone who is creative with a camera." In another paragraph the passage states, "One website offers various kinds of art, including photography, illustration, animation, and pixel art. Many celebrities are also taking advantage of the NFT boom to sell digital assets." This seemingly limitless creative potential for the world of NFTs with their non-fungibility makes them highly coveted by collectors.

Much like in with the stock market in the early 1900s, collectors believe that NFTs have the potential to increase in value over time. The allure of profit has been a leading factor in the NFT market. As of 2022, the highest valued NFT stands at \$91 million dollars. The uncertainty surrounding the value and profit of NFTs has an effect similar to gambling: the possibility of winning. If in 2022 one NFT is priced at \$91 million, how much will it be worth in 2042? Ryan McCulloch of Berklee College of Music explains that, "Whenever you decide to invest in an NFT, normally you end up gaining value from it." This is further supported in the passage "An Overview of NFTs", which says that, "When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit. The marketplace also takes a small percentage of the sale price. Owners who sell the NFTs keep the remaining profit." This point demonstrates how the purchasing and selling of NFTs on the market not only benefits collectors who have invested in NFTs and resold them, but additionally artists and creators receive a portion of the funds to support their careers, as well as the marketplace itself. The potential for investment profit continues to further the NFT market.

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point 4/2 (continued)

Another cause for NFT artists and collectors excitement is the economic independence of NFTs. Since they are bought and sold using the cryptocurrency Ethereum, the government and banks have no control or regulations over the NFT market. This allows investors and artists to keep their profits to themselves without any outside restrictions. Ryan Mcculloh says in the passage “An Overview of NFTs” that “selling NFTs is a great way for musicians to avoid exploitation from record labels. This can be applied to most industries, as with NFTs creators have the ability to sell their merchandise without restrictions, taxation, or exploitation from outside sources. The independence of NFTs is highly important to their value and profit as well; since all profits are split directly between the seller, the original creator, and the marketplace, no outside company or government can take a percentage of this profit for their own gain.

To conclude, NFTs are part of a growing modern market which has caught the attention and excitement of investors and artists. This is due to being non-fungable, profitable, and independent. The rise of the NFT market has opened up many opportunities for economic growth along with the rise of cryptocurrency and e-commerce. One analysis predicts NFT sales to increase by 18.55% in the next five years. NFTs have the potential to become a highly-valuable market if their popularity continues to rise as predicted.

Sample 2 Annotation Score Point 4/2

Trait 1 Score Point 4

Exceeds Expectations: A well-developed informative response that examines a topic in-depth and skillfully conveys ideas and information clearly based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Effectively introduces the topic by explaining the difference between fungible and non-fungible items, and then describes NFTs.**
 - “As we advance in our technology, NFTs have begun to gain attention in the economy. Much like a painting, an NFT is unique and unable to be reproduced. Due to blockchain technology, NFTs can be purchased and transferred with a guarantee of authenticity.”
- **Includes a focused controlling idea that is skillfully maintained throughout the response.**
 - “NFTs first appeared for sale in 2014, and since then collectors and artists have become excited for their potential. Their allure comes from being non-fungible, profitable, and independent.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that effectively strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea. The body of the response provides organized supporting ideas which are developed with text support and elaboration. Each body paragraph ends with a concluding statement which makes a connection to the supporting idea presented in the topic sentence. Each topic sentence is followed with explanation to clarify these supporting ideas.**
 - “Part of the excitement around NFTs comes from being non-fungible. Buyers are guaranteed that their purchase is owned solely by them.”
 - “Much like in with the stock market in the early 1900s, collectors believe that NFTs have the potential to increase in value over time. The allure of profit has been a leading factor in the NFT market.”
 - “Another cause for NFT artists and collectors excitement is the economic independence of NFTs. Since they are bought and sold using the cryptocurrency Ethereum, the government and banks have no control or regulations over the NFT market. This allows investors and artists to keep their profits to themselves without any outside restrictions.”
- **Uses varied transitions to effectively connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts.**
 - “As we advance. . .” “Much like a painting. . .” “Part of the excitement. . .” “Long before NFTs. . .” “According to the passage. . .” “Much like. . .” “If in 2022. . .” “This is further supported in the passage. . .” “. . .which says that. . .” “This point demonstrates. . .” “Another cause. . .” “Since they are. . .” “Ryan Mcculloh says. . .” “To conclude. . .” “This is due to. . .”

- **Provides an effective introduction and a concluding statement or section that supports the information presented. The introduction describes the qualities of NFTs and presents ideas to show why they are important.**
 - “As we advance in our technology, NFTs have begun to gain attention in the economy. Much like a painting, an NFT is unique and unable to be reproduced. Due to blockchain technology, NFTs can be purchased and transferred with a guarantee of authenticity. NFTs first appeared for sale in 2014, and since then collectors and artists have become excited for their potential. Their allure comes from being non-fungible, profitable, and independent.”
 - The conclusion reiterates these ideas and reminds the reader of the positive future for NFTs.**
 - “To conclude, NFTs are part of a growing modern market which has caught the attention and excitement of investors and artists. . .NFTs have the potential to become a highly-valuable market if their popularity continues to rise as predicted.”

DEVELOPMENT

- **Effectively demonstrates a thorough understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s) by thoroughly developing ideas with elaboration that includes text details chosen from various parts of the passage, in addition to original thinking that demonstrates the writer’s understanding of passage ideas.**
- **Effectively develops the topic using relevant facts, definitions, details, and quotes. The first two supporting ideas are supported with substantial quoted information, while the last idea is supported with closely paraphrased text, with just a few words being changed.**
 - “. . .It is an area open to almost anyone who is creative with a camera. . .One website offers various kinds of art, including photography, illustration, animation, and pixel art. Many celebrities are also taking advantage of the NFT boom to sell digital assets.”
 - “. . .Whenever you decide to invest in an NFT, normally you end up gaining value from it. . .When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit. The marketplace also takes a small percentage of the sale price. Owners who sell the NFTs keep the remaining profit.”
 - “. . .selling NFTs is a great way for musicians to avoid exploitation from record labels.”
- **Smoothly integrates elaboration of thoughts which includes original student thinking combined with summary, paraphrasing, and text evidence. For each supporting idea, the writer incorporates relevant paraphrased text details into an explanation that demonstrates substantial original thinking. This allows the writer to include text ideas beyond the quoted information and helps to further connect the writer’s explanations to text ideas.**
 - “Long before NFTs, collectors bought famous artworks and other one-of-a-kind items at auctions for the thrill of owning something that is sought after, yet unable to be owned by anyone else. The NFT market is a modern version of this where young people are able to purchase one-of-a-kind digital items using cryptocurrency. They are often displayed by collectors on social media, in digital profiles, or on digital framed screens to be placed around one’s home or in public galleries. . .This seemingly limitless creative potential for the world of NFTs with their non-fungibility makes them highly coveted by collectors.”

- “The allure of profit has been a leading factor in the NFT market. As of 2022, the highest valued NFT stands at \$91 million dollars. The uncertainty surrounding the value and profit of NFTs has an effect similar to gambling: the possibility of winning. If in 2022 one NFT is priced at \$91 million, how much will it be worth in 2042?. . . This point demonstrates how the purchasing and selling of NFTs on the market not only benefits collectors who have invested in NFTs and resold them, but additionally artists and creators receive a portion of the funds to support their careers, as well as the marketplace itself. The potential for investment profit continues to further the NFT market.”
- “Since they are bought and sold using the cryptocurrency Ethereum, the government and banks have no control or regulations over the NFT market. This allows investors and artists to keep their profits to themselves without any outside restrictions. . . This can be applied to most industries, as with NFTs creators have the ability to sell their merchandise without restrictions, taxation, or exploitation from outside sources. The independence of NFTs is highly important to their value and profit as well; since all profits are split directly between the seller, the original creator, and the marketplace, no outside company or government can take a percentage of this profit for their own gain.”

COHERENCE

- **Integrates precise vocabulary to skillfully strengthen and further ideas.**
 - “allure,” “owned solely,” “one-of-a-kind,” “thrill of owning,” “sought after,” “modern version,” “seemingly limitless,” “highly coveted,” “leading factor,” “possibility of winning,” “potential,” “economic independence,” “outside restrictions,” “their own gain,” “as predicted.”
- **Skillful use of varied sentence types and phrasing that contribute to the fluidity of ideas.**
 - “Another cause for NFT artists and collectors excitement is the economic independence of NFTs. Since they are bought and sold using the cryptocurrency Ethereum, the government and banks have no control or regulations over the NFT market. This allows investors and artists to keep their profits to themselves without any outside restrictions.”
- **Uses a voice that enhances the overall response.**
 - “The uncertainty surrounding the value and profit of NFTs has an effect similar to gambling: the possibility of winning.”
- **Establishes and purposely maintains a tone and style appropriate to the task and purpose. The informative tone is established in the introduction and is maintained throughout the response.**
 - “Long before NFTs, collectors bought famous artworks and other one-of-a-kind items at auctions for the thrill of owning something that is sought after, yet unable to be owned by anyone else. The NFT market is a modern version of this where young people are able to purchase one-of-a-kind digital items using cryptocurrency.”

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. There are minor punctuation and spelling errors which do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “artists and collectors excitement” – missing apostrophes (artists’ and collectors’ excitement)
 - “transferred,” “non-fungibility,” “recieve,” “fungable.”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “Much like in with the stock market in the early 1900s, collectors believe that NFTs have the potential to increase in value over time. The allure of profit has been a leading factor in the NFT market.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “Much like in with”

Score Justification

- The controlling idea is focused and skillfully maintained throughout as the effective organizational structure strengthens the response.
- A variety of transitional strategies effectively connect and clarify the relationship between ideas and concepts.
- The development is effective with the use of relevant facts, definitions, details, and quotes, as well as smooth integration of original thought, summary, and paraphrase.
- Precise vocabulary is used to strengthen ideas, and varied sentence structures provide connections.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Rather than using so much quoted information as support, more paraphrasing integrated with original thinking would make the response more succinct, strengthening the expression of ideas by removing extraneous verbiage or repetition. More original thought as part of the elaboration would demonstrate a deeper understanding of text ideas.

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point**Trait 1: 3****Trait 2: 2**

Many kids in their teen years and early stages of their life are surfacing a new digital find through the internet and making hundreds of thousands in a year digitally through finding the right ones for the right prices. NFTs are an electronic purchaseable item that is a great way for anyone in the digital world to invest and make money with a risk. They are online collectables that are bought, sold, collected, and have many more uses. Celebrities and adults have found these to be a cool way to make money through these NFTs. They do this by making their own NFTs, investing and waiting for the value to shoot up, and even collecting them as a cool collectable.

One way young adults are generating excitement and making money through NFTs is through investing in them. The article states, "One analysis predicts an 18.55% increase of NFT sales in the next five years." Young investors will research the NFT market for ones that are predicted to exponentially grow or shoot up in the future and invest in them. It is a risky purchase but if you invest smart you can make big time money. Another quote from this article states that "Even tweets can be preserved and sold as NFTs." What is being said is that no matter what you do or what social media app you use, almost anything digitally can be turned to an NFT no matter if you plan on collecting it or selling it to make some money. This makes one of the tens of hundreds of reasons why many people are gaining interest on the new topic of NFTs.

Another reason why NFTs are growing so rapidly is because of how much you can profit by making the NFTs yourself. Surprisingly, "One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000." Many sports reels are surfacing internet and catching peoples attention. The text also says, "When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit." This means that even when the NFT is out of your hands and gets exchanged digitally, every time you will make money off of it. It seems like a great hustle or job and a great way to spend your time wisely and make some crazy money if you find yourself good at it.

A third reason why these NFTs are catching the attention of many young men and women is because they can make extremely cool collectables. Some people buy them as something to keep in their room or house. The text says, "Gaming items could be new outfits for avatars (video game figures) or content that allows gamers to discover new stories and worlds." This means that some people go online and shop for NFTs to use for personal use in their every day lives. The author also writes that "Some collectors purchase high-resolution screens with frames to display an NFT on a home or office wall. Also, some gallery owners are developing NFT collections for public display." This means that some of the more wealthy people don't care to make money off of the NFTs. They just like to collect them and display them as an interesting purchase. This is generating excitement from all different parts of the world!

From investing in them, to making them, and to even collecting them, NFTs are a unique digital product that is really something new from the younger generation. Something like this has never been seen before, and how much money that is being made off of it seems unreal. The craziest part is that 25% of Americans do not have a clue what NFTs even are.

Sample 1 Annotation Score Point 3/2

Trait 1 Score Point 3

Meets Expectations: A complete informative response that examines a topic and presents related information based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Introduces the topic.**
 - “NFTs are an electronic purchaseable item that is a great way for anyone in the digital world to invest and make money with a risk.”
- **Includes a focused controlling idea that is consistently maintained throughout the response.**
 - “Celebrities and adults have found these to be a cool way to make money through these NFTs. They do this by making their own NFTs, investing and waiting for the value to shoot up, and even collecting them as a cool collectable.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea. Reasons are developed in the body of the response that support and maintain focus on the idea that young adults can benefit from NFTs.**
 - “One way young adults are generating excitement and making money through NFTs is through investing in them.”
 - “Another reason why NFTs are growing so rapidly is because of how much you can profit by making the NFTs yourself.”
 - “A third reason why these NFTs are catching the attention of many young men and women is because they can make extremely cool collectables.”
- **Uses varied transitions to connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts.**
 - “One way,” “Another quote,” “What is being said,” “Another reason,” “Surprisingly,” “The text also says,” “This means,” “A third reason,” “The author also writes,” “From investing in them, to making them.”
- **Provides a sufficient introduction which sets up the context, explains NFTs, and presents the controlling idea. The conclusion reminds the reader of the ideas presented in the response.**

DEVELOPMENT

- **Demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s) by providing appropriate supporting ideas and relevant supporting text details, with elaboration, to inform the reader about the topic of NFTs and how they can be of benefit to young adults.**

- **Develops the topic adequately using relevant facts, definitions, details, and/or quotes.**
 - “NFTs are an electronic purchaseable item that is a great way for anyone in the digital world to invest and make money with a risk. They are online collectables that are bought, sold, collected, and have many more uses.”
 - “. . .One analysis predicts an 18.55% increase of NFT sales in the next five years.”
 - “. . .Even tweets can be preserved and sold as NFTs.”
 - “. . .One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000.”
 - “. . .When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit.”
 - “Some people buy them as something to keep in their room or house.”
 - “. . .Gaming items could be new outfits for avatars (video game figures) or content that allows gamers to discover new stories and worlds.”
 - “. . .Some collectors purchase high-resolution screens with frames to display an NFT on a home or office wall. Also, some gallery owners are developing NFT collections for public display.”
- **Adequate elaboration of thoughts which includes paraphrasing of text and explanations with original student thinking.**
 - “Young investors will research the NFT market for ones that are predicted to exponentially grow or shoot up in the future and invest in them. It is a risky purchase but if you invest smart you can make big time money.”
 - “. . .no matter what you do or what social media app you use, almost anything digitally can be turned to an NFT no matter if you plan on collecting it or selling it to make some money. This makes one of the tens of hundreds of reasons why many people are gaining interest on the new topic of NFTs.”
 - “Many sports reels are surfacing internet and catching peoples attention. . . This means that even when the NFT is out of your hands and gets exchanged digitally, every time you will make money off of it. It seems like a great hustle or job and a great way to spend your time wisely and make some crazy money if you find yourself good at it.”
 - “This means that some people go online and shop for NFTs to use for personal use in their every day lives. . . This means that some of the more wealthy people don’t care to make money off of the NFTs. They just like to collect them and display them as an interesting purchase. This is generating excitement from all different parts of the world!”

COHERENCE

- **Integrates vocabulary to strengthen and further ideas.**
 - “early stages,” “surfacing,” “risk,” “shoot up,” “exponentially,” “invest smart,” “big time money,” “great hustle,” “spend your time wisely.”
- **Uses varied sentence types and phrases, although not consistently, to contribute to the fluidity of ideas.**
 - “What is being said is that no matter what you do or what social media app you use, almost anything digitally can be turned to an NFT no matter if you plan on collecting it or selling it to make some money. This makes one of the tens of hundreds of reasons why many people are gaining interest on the new topic of NFTs.”
- **Establishes and maintains a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose. The writer maintains a formal, informational tone throughout the response.**

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, with minor errors.**
 - “peoples,” “purchaseable,” “every day.”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “From investing in them, to making them, and to even collecting them, NFTs are a unique digital product that is really something new from the younger generation.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning, like missing words.**
 - “surfacing internet”

Score Justification

- The response has a controlling idea that is consistently maintained throughout the response.
- The organizational structure and transition strengthen the response by providing clear connections. The sufficient evidence and elaboration, which includes original thinking, contributes to the complete development of ideas.
- Some sentence variety and precise language enhance the response and facilitate the progression of ideas within the body paragraphs.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Expanding the focus from the idea of making money would allow the response to discuss other ideas mentioned in the passage, thus moving the response from “sufficient understanding” to “thorough understanding.”
- Instead of using repetitive transitions like “the text says” or “this means,” try to use a variety of transitional phrases.
- Use precise vocabulary more consistently, rather than informal expressions such as “cool way,” “crazy money,” and “cool collectables.”
- While some complex and compound sentences are used, many of the sentences have a subject-verb construction. More sentence variety would enhance the flow of ideas.

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point 3/2

NFTs are original or very limited supplies of digital assets that people collect due to their value. They generate excitement among artists and collectors because they provide a way for artists to make more money, have an easy-to-use system of buying and selling, and are not all super expensive, which attracts more buyers.

One way that NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors is because they provide a way for artists to make more money. According to the text, "One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000." NFTs are also popular among collectors because they are unique and hold great value. There is often a very limited number of people who get access to these NFTs, which makes them a very cherished collector's item that people are willing to pay a lot of money for. The passage also says that the highest valued NFT as of 2022 was \$91 million. This further supports my statement that, because of the high value and desire for NFTs, artists and collectors are able to make large amounts of money.

Another way that NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors is because the system of selling and buying them is very easy-to-use. The text states, "NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and to create or buy NFTs." The selling of NFTs is very organized and efficient for both artists and collectors. In addition, the passage says, "When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit. The marketplace also takes a small percentage of the sale price." These statements show that not only do current owners of the sold NFTs make money, but the original owners as well as the marketplace they are sold from make a profit, too. In this way, the selling of NFTs creates excitement and is beneficial to even more people.

The final way that NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors is because not all of them are super unaffordably expensive for collectors. The text states, "While some are extremely expensive, others sell for less than ten dollars." This causes even more excitement and persuasion for collectors to buy NFTs because they are still able to get something valuable for not as expensive. While some people are willing to pay a higher price for NFTs, others are not. Artists are still able to make money from collectors who are not as passionate or willing to spend such large amounts of money for the NFTs that they are selling.

In conclusion, NFTs are becoming more and more popular due to the excitement that they generate among artists and collectors. This is because they provide a way for artists to make more money, have an easy-to-use system of buying and selling, and are not all super expensive, which attracts more buyers. The text says that it is predicted in one analysis that NFT sales will increase by 18.55% in the next five years. The excitement that NFTs cause is expected to see continued growth as time goes on.

Sample 2 Annotation Score Point

Trait 1: 3

Trait 2: 2

Trait 1 Score Point 3

Meets Expectations: A complete informative response that examines a topic and presents related information based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Introduces the topic.**
 - “NFTs are original or very limited supplies of digital assets that people collect due to their value.”
- **Includes a focused controlling idea (the money-making aspects of NFTs) which is consistently maintained throughout the response.**
 - “They generate excitement among artists and collectors because they provide a way for artists to make more money, have an easy-to-use system of buying and selling, and are not all super expensive, which attracts more buyers.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the controlling idea. The body of the response presents organized and developed reasons that NFTs are generating excitement.**
 - “. . .because they provide a way for artists to make more money.”
 - “. . .because the system of selling and buying them is very easy-to-use.”
 - “. . .because not all of them are super unaffordably expensive for collectors.”
- **Uses varied transitions to connect and clarify relationships between ideas and concepts.**
 - “One way,” “According to the text,” “also,” “The passage also says,” “This further supports,” “Another way,” “The text states,” “In addition,” “These statements show,” “In this way,” “The final way,” “While some people. . .”
- **Provides a sufficient introduction, which defines NFTs and presents supporting ideas, and a concluding section that supports, and reiterates, the information presented.**

DEVELOPMENT

- **Demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the task, topic, and information from the text(s) by providing appropriate supporting ideas, relevant supporting text details, and explanations that clarified the connections between ideas for the reader.**

- **Develops the topic adequately using relevant facts, definitions, details, and/or quotes.**
 - “. . .One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000.”
 - “. . .they are unique and hold great value.”
 - “. . .the highest valued NFT as of 2022 was \$91 million.”
 - “. . .NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and to create or buy NFTs.”
 - “. . .When an NFT is sold, the original owner gets between 5% and 10% of the profit. The marketplace also takes a small percentage of the sale price.”
 - “. . .While some are extremely expensive, others sell for less than ten dollars.”
- **Provides adequate elaboration of thoughts which includes original student thinking combined with summary, paraphrasing, and/or text evidence. The writer has thought about the value of NFTs and what they mean to people, adequately explaining why NFTs are financially beneficial for both artists and collectors.**
 - “There is often a very limited number of people who get access to these NFTs, which makes them a very cherished collector’s item that people are willing to pay a lot of money for.”
 - “. . .because of the high value and desire for NFTs, artists and collectors are able to make large amounts of money.”
 - “The selling of NFTs is very organized and efficient for both artists and collectors.”
 - “. . .not only do current owners of the sold NFTs make money, but the original owners as well as the marketplace they are sold from make a profit, too. In this way, the selling of NFTs creates excitement and is beneficial to even more people.”
 - “This causes even more excitement and persuasion for collectors to buy NFTs because they are still able to get something valuable for not as expensive. While some people are willing to pay a higher price for NFTs, others are not. Artists are still able to make money from collectors who are not as passionate or willing to spend such large amounts of money for the NFTs that they are selling.”

COHERENCE

- **Integrates vocabulary to strengthen and further ideas.**
 - “easy-to-use,” “cherished,” “collector’s item,” “beneficial,” “unaffordably expensive,” “persuasion,” “passionate,” “continued growth.”
- **Uses varied sentence types and phrases to contribute to the fluidity of ideas.**
 - “These statements show that not only do current owners of the sold NFTs make money, but the original owners as well as the marketplace they are sold from make a profit, too. In this way, the selling of NFTs creates excitement and is beneficial to even more people.”
- **Establishes and maintains a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose. The tone is appropriately informative.**
 - “There is often a very limited number of people who get access to these NFTs, which makes them a very cherished collector’s item that people are willing to pay a lot of money for.”

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.**
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “In this way, the selling of NFTs creates excitement and is beneficial to even more people.”
 - “While some people are willing to pay a higher price for NFTs, others are not.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning.**

Score Justification

- **The response is organized around a focused controlling idea that is consistently maintained throughout the response.**
- **The connections between ideas are clarified by the use of transitions, while the sentence variety gives a sentence-to-sentence progression of ideas throughout the response.**
- **Supporting ideas are organized and developed with relevant text, as well as elaboration that includes student thought, demonstrating an adequate understanding of the task and text.**
- **The use of some precise vocabulary enhances the response.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **While the adequate introduction defines NFTs and presents the supporting ideas, it would have been stronger if it had included more of the writer’s thoughts about NFTs, and an explanation to clarify why the reasons given were valid.**
- **Ideas in the body of the response could be developed with more original thinking by the writer, demonstrating a deeper understanding of passage ideas.**
- **The writing also would have been enhanced by more consistent use of precise vocabulary, as well as the more frequent use of sentences with introductory phrases that more effectively show how one idea is connected to the next.**

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point**Trait 1: 2****Trait 2: 2**

NFTs stands for non-fungible token. NFTs is a digital asset sold online as a way of investment. These assets are considered unique and hold value like in a way of art.

To start with, NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors bringing a lot of attention to the matter. Artists can make NFTs as way to express themselves and make a profit while doing so, as stated in the article "NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and create or buy NFTs." This allows many to create an account to explore the NFT marketplace, create their own NFT, or to start collecting NFTs. This means that the NFT business is accepting to everyone, allowing artists to create extravagant items for everyone to see and to sell it.

Secondly, celebrities have started to create and invest into NFTs. NFTs have become extremely popular and have even sparked the interest of celebrities even to where "One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show." This proves that NFTs has gained a lot of interest and has peaked the interest of many people. NFTs has recieved a lot of attention and celebrities are definitely putting it more into the spotlight.

Thirdly NFTs also sell for an abundant amount of money. The article states that "One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000." This means that NFTs are also incredibly expensive and aren't cheap. This matters because artists can earn a lot for their skill, effort, and dedication that is put into the artwork. NFTs can benefit artist who are struggling as well, as stated in the passage "Artworks are a particularly popular type of NFT purchase and have been a boon for artists, who often have a difficult time selling their work." This proves that NFTs can be beneficial to artists who are struggling to get their artwork noticed. This matters because many artists like to create things and NFTs helps artists share and sell their art.

In conclusion, NFTs have interested art and collectors through the ability to allow artists to create, collect, and sell NFTs as a way to express themselves.

Sample 1 Annotation Score Point 2/2

Trait 1 Score Point 2

Minimally Meets Expectations: An incomplete or oversimplified response that attempts to examine a topic and present information based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Introduces the topic.**
 - “NFTs stands for non-fungible token. NFTs is a digital assett sold online as a way of investment.”
- **Controlling idea may be unclear or insufficiently sustained throughout the response.**
 - “These assetts are considered unique and hold value like in a way of art.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that may be repetitive or inconsistent. While supporting ideas are organized in the body of the response, the topic sentences are vague and the relationship to the controlling idea is unclear due to the repetitive elaboration.**
 - “To start with, NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors bringing a lot of attention to the matter.”
 - “Secondly, celebrities have started to create and invest into NFTs.”
 - “Thirdly NFTs also sell for an abundant amount of money.”
- **Uses repetitive transitions to connect some ideas but cohesion is inconsistent as the transitions do not clarify how ideas are related to each other.**
 - “To start with,” “This allows,” “This means,” “Secondly,” “This proves,” “Thirdly,” “In conclusion.”
- **Introduction and concluding statement or section may be repetitive or ineffective. The introduction describes NFTs but does not clarify the controlling idea that will be addressed in the response.**
 - “NFTs stands for non-fungible token. NFTs is a digital assett sold online as a way of investment. These assetts are considered unique and hold value like in a way of art.”

The conclusion briefly reiterates ideas presented, without showing how the ideas are connected.

 - “In conclusion, NFTs have interested art and collectors through the ability to allow artists to create, collect, and sell NFTs as a way to express themselves.”

DEVELOPMENT

- **Demonstrates a partial or incomplete understanding of the task and topic. Elaboration of ideas is limited by commenting on the meaning of individual text quotes and showing partial comprehension of the text, instead of expanding original thinking to make connections to more passage ideas.**

- **Inconsistently develops the topic with little relevant information and may over-rely on the text. Text quotes are chosen, but the writer does not clarify how these details are connected to a controlling idea.**
 - “. . .NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and create or buy NFTs.”
 - “. . .One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show.”
 - “. . .One video highlight reel of a popular basketball player sold for \$208,000.”
 - “. . .Artworks are a particularly popular type of NFT purchase and have been a boon for artists, who often have a difficult time selling their work.”
- **Elaborates on thoughts but ideas may be repetitive or loosely related to the controlling idea. For each text quote, the writer elaborates by paraphrasing the quote and then drawing a weak inference, making a comment but not explaining why these ideas are important or how they support a controlling idea.**
 - “This allows many to create an account to explore the NFT marketplace, create their own NFT, or to start collecting NFTs. This means that the NFT business is accepting to everyone, allowing artists to create extravagant items for everyone to see and to sell it.”
 - “This proves that NFTs has gained a lot of interest and has peaked the interest of many people. NFTs has recieved a lot of attention and celebrities are definitely putting it more into the spotlight.”
 - “This means that NFTs are also incredibly expensive and aren’t cheap. This matters because artists can earn a lot for their skill, effort, and dedication that is put into the artwork. NFTs can benefit artist who are struggling as well. . .”
 - “This proves that NFTs can be beneficial to artists who are struggling to get their artwork noticed. This matters because many artists like to create things and NFTs helps artists share and sell their art.”

COHERENCE

- **Vocabulary and word choice may be limited or inconsistently used, showing a partial command of the expression of ideas.**
 - “like in a way of art,” “make a profit,” “accepting to everyone,” “extravigant,” “peaked the interest,” “into the spotlight,” “abundant,” “dedicated.”
- **Uses varied sentence types which contribute to the fluidity of ideas.**
 - “Artists can make NFTs as way to express themselves and make a profit while doing so, as stated in the article ‘NFT marketplaces allow people to create an account and create or buy NFTs.’”
 - “This allows many to create an account to explore the NFT marketplace, create their own NFT, or to start collecting NFTs.”
 - “This means that the NFT business is accepting to everyone, allowing artists to create extravagant items for everyone to see and to sell it.”
- **Establishes a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose but does not maintain it throughout the response. The writer establishes an informative tone, but the repetitive language and sentence structure inhibits the development of individual style.**

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling with a few spelling errors.**
 - “assett,” “extravigant,” “recieved,” “benificial.”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “This means that the NFT business is accepting to everyone, allowing artists to create extravigant items for everyone to see and to sell it.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “is” for are, “has” for have, “artist” for artists, “helps” for help.

Score Justification

- The response has repetitive elaboration and is not sufficiently focused on supporting an overall controlling idea. The controlling idea is unclear, and the reader isn’t told why the writer is providing this information or why it is important. The introduction and conclusion are ineffective. The introduction should provide a clear, controlling idea, clarifying for the reader what the writer thinks about the topic. The conclusion should tie these ideas together, reminding the reader of the points made by the writer and why they are important.
- There is an over-reliance on the text for development, and the elaboration paraphrases the text quote before supplying a weak inference. Repetitive transitions in this formulaic response, “this means/proves” and “this matters,” do not clarify the relationships between ideas.

Suggestions for Improvement

- An adequate introduction is needed to provide a clear controlling idea. In the body of the response, the topic sentences should indicate why that topic was chosen so that the reader can better understand the relevance of the text support and the explanation in the elaboration.
- Ideas need to be developed with more original thinking. Instead of paraphrasing the text quote, supporting details from other parts of the passage could be used, and then connected to the text quote and the controlling idea with elaboration that shows the writer has thought more deeply about ideas.
- A greater variety of transitions should be used, including sentences with a variety of introductory phrases, to connect ideas and create coherence.

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point**Trait 1: 2****Trait 2: 2**

Reasons NFTs are generating excitement among artists and collectors are for many various reasons. They can go for anything such as helping artists, celebrities, reels and videos, and etc. In the writing you'll see how NFTs can help people in the world.

First off, NFTs can help many artists, especially the ones that have a difficult time selling their work. In the passage under the paragraph "Popular NFTs" it states "One website offers various kinds of art, including photography, illustrations, animation, and pixel art." This gives the artist that may get overlooked a opportunity to sell and pursue their career. Many of the people that are in the art field see this kind of stuff as a big help.

Second, celebrities use NFTs to sell digital assets. In the passage you'll see that it says "Some have sold art. Some have sold early memories of their lives. One celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show. The money from the sale of the show was donated to charity." This is a different perspective of how NFTs can be used, and more of a positive way as well. And it's not just for the everyday people.

Third off, reels and videos are getting sold off of NFTs. In the passage it talks about how this topic is possible. "NFTs also include videos. One popular skateboarder offered a video of himself performing one of his famous tricks." By seeing this it really shows that people can sell anything off of NFTs and it's not just limited to a certain group.

Lastly, you can see all of the positive sides to NFTs and why they are generating excitement among artists and collectors. It can be used for anyone out there. Even in the passage it states "It is an area open to almost anyone who is creative with a camera." This passage gives so many reasons people and society are going towards NFTs now.

Sample 2 Annotation Score Point 2/2

Trait 1 Score Point 2

Minimally Meets Expectations: An incomplete or oversimplified response that attempts to examine a topic and present information based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Introduces the topic.**
 - “Reasons NFTs are generating excitement among artist and collectors are for many various reasons.”
- **Controlling idea may be unclear or insufficiently sustained throughout the response. Supporting ideas are loosely related to the vague idea of helping people.**
 - “In the writing you’ll see how NFTs can help people in the world.”
- **Uses an organizational structure that may be repetitive or inconsistent. In the body of the response, each supporting idea has a topic sentence which presents a reason that restates the ideas in the following quoted text. In each case, this is followed by a concluding sentence which draws a weak inference from the text, resulting in vague elaboration which does not provide adequate support for these reasons that NFTs are helpful.**
 - “. . .NFTs can help many artist, espically the ones that have a difficult time selling their work.”
 - “. . .celebrties use NFTs to sell ditagel assets.”
 - “. . .reels and videos are getting sold off of NFTs.”
- **Uses transitions to connect ideas but cohesion is inconsistent. The transitions used do not create connections between ideas or help the reader understand how the ideas are related to the controlling idea.**
 - “Reasons NFTs are generating excitement among artist and collectors are for many various reasons.”
 - “Lastley, you can see all of the postive sides to NFTs and why they are generating excitement among artist and collectors. . .This passage gives so many reasons people and socity are going towards NFTs now.”

DEVELOPMENT

- **Demonstrates a partial or incomplete understanding of the task and topic. The elaboration shows that the writer understands the meaning of individual text quotes but does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of passage ideas.**

- **Inconsistently develops the topic with little relevant information and may over-rely on the text. There are text examples which describe helpful aspects of NFTs.**
 - “One website offers various kinds of art, including photography, illustrations, animation, and pixel art.”
 - “Some have sold art. Some have sold early memories of their lives. One Celebrity has even sold NFTs of a television show. The money from the sale of the show was donated to charity.”
 - “NFTs also include videos. One popular skateboarder offered a video of himself performing one of his famous tricks.”
 - “It is a area open to almost anyone who is creative with a camera.”
- **Elaborates on thoughts but ideas may be repetitive or loosely related to the controlling idea. Elaboration for the first reason is more successful as the writer begins to make some vague connections between being a struggling artist and the opportunities offered by NFTs.**
 - “This gives the artist that may get overlooked a opportunity to sell and persue their carer. Many of the people that are in the art field sees this kind of stuff as a big help.”
 - “. . .can help many artist, espically the ones that have a difficult time selling their work.”
 - “This is a different perspective of how NFTs can be used, and more of a postive way as well. And it’s not just for the everyday people.”
 - “By seeing this it really shows that people can sell anything off of NFTs and it’s not just limited to a certin group.”
 - “It can be used for anyone out there.”

COHERENCE

- **Vocabulary and word choice may be limited or inconsistently used, showing a partial command of the expression of ideas. Word choice is mostly general, rather than precise, resulting in the vague expression of ideas.**
 - “overlooked,” “this kind of stuff,” “perspective,” “everyday people,” “limited,” “anyone out there,” “going towards.”
- **Sentence structure is simplistic and lacking grade-appropriate language.**
 - “It can be used for anyone out there.”
- **Establishes a style and tone appropriate to the task and purpose but does not maintain it throughout the response. The writer establishes an informative tone, but the vague language inhibits the development of individual style.**

Trait 2 Score Point 2

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Most of the spelling is correct, and errors do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “gennerating,” “artis,” “celebrties,” “espically,” “persue,” “carer,” “ditagel,” “postive,” “possibel,” “preforming,” “certin,” “Lastley,” “passeage,” “society.”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety.**
 - “By seeing this it really shows that people can sell anything off of NFTs and it’s not just limited to a certin group.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning.**
 - “artist” for artists, “a” for an

Score Justification

- **The controlling idea is insufficiently sustained throughout the response due to the vague expression of ideas and the inconsistent development. While there is a basic organizational structure, it is inconsistent in advancing the controlling idea because there is not a steady progression of ideas within and between body paragraphs. The development of ideas is inconsistent, lacking explanations to clarify what the writer thinks and how ideas presented support the controlling idea.**
- **Vocabulary is inconsistently used, resulting in the vague expression of ideas.**
- **The lack of sentence variety inhibits the smooth flow of ideas in the response.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **The introduction should have more specific information about the value of NFTs to clarify the controlling idea for the reader. The conclusion also should include specific information to show how all the ideas presented are connected to each other and support the controlling idea.**
- **To demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the task and text, the elaboration should include more relevant text along with explanations that include original thinking from the writer.**
- **More precise vocabulary should be used, avoiding vague words such as “stuff.” More consistent use of transitions and sentence variety would provide stronger connections between ideas.**

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point**Trait 1: 1****Trait 2: 2**

The reason why NFTs are becoming popular amongst artists and collectors is because they'd be able to own something that can't be replaced or exchanged. For example, Most collector's may want to purchase an NFT is because its a digital form of a collectible item that comes with proof of authenticity so no one would try to steal it. Another reason why it is becoming popular is because you could make a lot of money just by selling an NFT. In "An Overview of NFTs," It says that a video of a basketball player sold for \$208,000.

Sample 1 Annotation Score Point 1/1

Trait 1 Score Point 1

Does Not Meet Expectations: The response is a weak attempt to write an informative response that may be loosely based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Controlling idea may be confusing or absent, demonstrating a misunderstanding of the topic or task. The writer uses language from the prompt to present the controlling idea.**
 - “. . .NFTs are becoming popular amongst artists and collectors. . .”
- **Demonstrates little to no organizational structure. The response provides a list of reasons, with text details and elaboration. There is no attempt to organize and develop these ideas. The sentences could be rearranged without changing the meaning of the response.**
- **Transitions are minimally used to connect ideas within the body of the response.**
 - “For example,” “Another reason,” “In.”
- **There is an introductory statement drawn from the prompt, but a concluding statement is missing.**
 - “The reason why NFTs are becoming popular amongst artists and collectors is because they’d be able to own something that can’t be replaced or exchanged.”

DEVELOPMENT

- **Response may be too brief to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or may consist mostly of a summary of the text(s). The writer presents closely paraphrased reasons from the text with little elaboration.**
- **Evidence from the text(s) is barely paraphrased, with only a few words changed, but the examples support the idea of the benefits of owning NFTs.**
 - “. . .they’d be able to own something that can’t be replaced or exchanged.”
 - “. . .its a digital form of a collectible item that comes with proof of authenticity. . .”
 - “. . .It says that a video of a basketball player sold for \$208,000.”
- **Elaboration of thoughts may consist of vague or confusing ideas. The writer draws weak inferences from the text examples, demonstrating a minimal understanding of the text.**
 - “. . .so no one would try to steal it.”
 - “. . .you could make a lot of money just by selling an NFT.”

COHERENCE

- **Vocabulary and word choice are clear, but most of the phrases are barely paraphrased text.**
- **Sentence structure is clear and does not interfere with coherence, but there is little connection from one sentence to the next.**
- **Style and tone may be inappropriate to the task and purpose. The use of paraphrased text for most of the response inhibits the development of individual style and tone.**

Trait 2 Score Point 1

Meets Expectations: The response demonstrates a command of language usage and conventions.

- **Demonstrates a consistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, although there are minor errors.**
 - “collector’s,” “its.”
 - “Most,” “It.”
 - “somethng”
- **Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with variety. The writer uses complex sentences, some beginning with introductory phrases.**
 - “For example, Most collector’s may want to purchase an NFT is because its a digital form of a collectible item that comes with proof of authenticity so no one would try to steal it.”
- **Has minor errors in usage and/or conventions that do not interfere with meaning (an extra word).**
 - “is because”

Score Justification

- **The controlling idea is vague, combining verbiage from the prompt with a paraphrased reason from the text. Although transitions are used, there is little progression of ideas.**
- **The response lacks an overall introduction and conclusion to help bring together ideas.**
- **There is little development of ideas which are presented as paraphrased text with little original thinking.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Include an overall introduction to establish a clear controlling idea by presenting the topic and the supporting ideas to be developed in the body of the response.**
- **As the ideas are developed, incorporate original thinking into the elaboration by explaining how the provided text details support the controlling idea.**
- **Use transitions that show the connections between ideas and provide a conclusion that reminds the reader of how these ideas are supportive of the controlling idea.**
- **The style and tone of the response would be improved with the use of vocabulary and phrasing that is original to the writer and not drawn so closely from the text.**

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point 1/1

NFTs are being use to express people creativiyy and would be the future of art, And they will have profit increase by five years NFTs are apart of the market which means you can take one recolor it and resell it however many times as you like. It's use for music albums and it says that "NFT market places allow people to create an account and to create or buy NFTs." So what author is that NFTs are not profitbul and you should not perachase them

Sample 2 Annotation Score Point

Trait 1: 1

Trait 2: 2

Trait 1 Score Point 1

Does Not Meet Expectations: The response is a weak attempt to write an informative response that may be loosely based on a text(s).

STRUCTURE

- **Controlling idea is confusing or absent, demonstrating a misunderstanding of the topic or task. It's difficult for the reader to understand the point the writer is trying to make.**
 - "NFTs are being use to express people creativiy and would be the future of art. . .will have profit increase. . .are apart of the market. . .you can take one recolor it. . .you should not perachase them"
- **Demonstrates little to no organizational structure. There is no attempt to organize ideas in the body of the response. Information is presented as a list of ideas.**
- **Transitions are missing or confusing. Few transitional words are used, and they do not clarify connections between ideas.**
 - "And," "So."
- **There is an introductory statement, but the concluding statement is missing. The last sentence is a comment on the preceding text quote and is unrelated to the ideas presented in the response.**
 - "NFTs are being use to express people creativiy and would be the future of art. . ."
 - ". . .NFTs are not profitbul and you should not perachase them"

DEVELOPMENT

- **Response may be too brief to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or may consist mostly of a summary of the text(s). The response presents details from the text without explaining how these facts support ideas.**
- **Evidence from the text(s) may be missing or confusing. The author presents a list of random facts from the text, some paraphrased, without clear explanations.**
 - "use to express people creativity. . .future of art. . .profit increase. . .apart of the market. . .use for music albums"
 - "NFT market places allow people to create an account and to create or buy NFTs."
- **Elaboration of thoughts may consist of vague or confusing ideas, indicating that the writer may not understand the meaning of the text. Attempts to elaborate do not clarify how the text examples relate to creativity, NFT marketplaces, or creating accounts/ buying NFTs.**
 - "you can take one recolor it and resell it however many times as you like"
 - "NFTs are not profitbul and you should not perachase them"

COHERENCE

- **Vocabulary and word choice may be unclear or confusing. Vocabulary is taken from the text, but elaboration indicates that the writer may not understand the meaning of some of the vocabulary used. Because of this, ideas do not flow smoothly from one sentence to the next.**
- **Sentence structure may be confusing due to missing words.**
 - “So what author is that NFTs are not profitbul. . .”
- **Style and tone may be inappropriate to the task and purpose. Conventions errors inhibit the development of tone.**

Trait 2 Score Point 1

Does Not Meet Expectations: The response demonstrates a weak command of language usage and conventions.

COHERENCE

- **Demonstrates an inconsistent command of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. There are missing commas in a series, a missing final period, an error in capitalization, and spelling errors.**
 - “take one recolor it and resell it”
 - “And”
 - “creativiy,” “apart,” “market places,” “profitbul,” “perachase.”
- **Has an error in sentence structure that interferes with meaning. The first sentence is missing a period, creating a run-together.**
 - “. . .increase by five years NFTs are apart. . .”
- **Has frequent errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning. There are usage errors for verbs and nouns. Missing words interrupt the flow of the writing.**
 - “use” for used, “people” for people’s
 - “have profit increase,” “what author,” “author saying.”

Score Justification

- **The controlling idea is confusing, and it is difficult to understand. There is no organizational structure as the response is a list of ideas. Evidence is presented, but elaboration consists of confusing ideas which do not explain why the text ideas are important or how they support an overall controlling idea.**
- **The errors in conventions, especially usage and missing words, interfere with the expression of ideas.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **State a clear controlling idea to show some understanding of the topic and task.**
- **Present an overall introduction to show the reader the ideas that will be developed in the response.**
- **Develop supporting ideas in the body of the response, using transitions to create connections.**
- **Make sure that evidence selected supports a point; then elaborate on that evidence with explanations that support ideas.**
- **Present a conclusion to remind the reader how these ideas are connected.**
- **Form clear sentences to help the reader understand ideas.**

Sample 1 Student Response Score Point 0

NFT's may be generating excitement among artists and collectors as it is a digital file, which is already new, It is also original!

Score Justification

The response is too limited to score. The writer attempts to present a controlling idea by changing a verb in the prompt “NFTs may be generating excitement among artists and collectors. . .,” and then gives vague reasons from the text as support “it is a digital file” and “It is also original!” There is an attempt to elaborate by describing the file as “already new,” but there is no further explanation to clarify why this is true or why being “digital. . .new. . .original” is “generating excitement.” To achieve a score of 1, the writer needs to provide some details to describe the concept of NFTs and explain why “artists and collectors” are excited about them.

Sample 2 Student Response Score Point 0

they are creating exitment because, how easy it is to make intresting things that will generate lots of money for them.

Score Justification

The response is too limited to score. The writer attempts to introduce the topic by vaguely referring to “they,” “them,” and “things,” but the reader is not given enough information to determine what specific “things” are being made, why making them is “easy,” or how they are “creating exitment.” To achieve a score of 1, the response needs to include some specific details to provide a clearer controlling idea. The reader needs to know what “things” are being made, what makes them “intresting,” who is making them, and how they are generating “lots of money.”