



English I

Expository Scoring Guide

March 2016

English I

Expository Prompt

Read the following quotation.

Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

—*Anonymous*

What is the best way to maintain a strong friendship? Think carefully about this question.

Write an essay explaining your definition of a true friendship.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

The definition of friend is "A person whom one knows, likes, and trusts."

What maintains a strong friendship? Well first you need to build trust so you and your friend can tell each other anything. And then theres where you wouldn't want to have a friend that copies you, you want a friend that goes with his or hers flow or as some may say. In a strong friendship theres no lying, and theres the friend you need with an amazing personality.

Also you can't have that friend with an ego you want someone that has the biggest heart for other and not to where they care mainly about themselves because then that causes conflict in the relationship. A true friend is someone that supports everything you do and doesn't judge you on your decision or thought.

I think this is the definition of true friendship.

Score Point 1

The writer provides a list of several qualities that could define a strong friendship; however, the ideas presented throughout the response are insufficiently developed. As a result, abrupt shifts between different ideas occur on a sentence-to-sentence level and even within some sentences (In a strong friendship there's no lying, and there's the friend you need with an amazing personality). This weak progression of ideas causes the essay to lack coherence, and the writer's definition of true friendship remains unclear. Overall, this essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Maintaining a friendship is hard work, but it's worth keeping. You have to give it your all to keep the bond strong. There may be conflicts every once in a while and will take some time patch it between friends.

True friendship is where the other person knows how you act and will sometimes say you're terrible. Whereas, an acquaintance would say that's so sweet of you. A true friend wouldn't talk about you behind your back.

"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend."

Score Point 1

In this very limited essay, the absence of a clear thesis divides the focus between a discussion of how to maintain a strong friendship and a brief response to the actual writing task (explaining your definition of a true friendship). The lack of development within paragraphs and the lack of transitions between them make it difficult for the reader to determine the purpose or effectiveness of these ideas. The inclusion of the quotation from the prompt page as a final paragraph does not contribute to or detract from the quality of the essay.

Do you have a best friend? Do you hope
you'll can stay friends for a very long time? For me
both those answers are Yes. Best friends will have
ups and downs. Just because you are best friends doesn't
mean they will be no fighting. But that's
why you are best friends cause you can go through
those moments and hug it out.

Communication is the key towards a better relationship.
If you and your best friends really are best friends you
should know everything about each other. You should know
each other back round and what they had to live
through.

Me and my best friend Carlos we are like really close.
I'd take a bullet for him. No matter what me and
him are always there for each other. We did a lot
of things I can't explain but I know we
had a good time I wish I can go back and
push remind.

Score Point 1

In this very limited writing performance, the writer provides the idea that close friends “will have ups and downs” but maintain their friendship “cause y’all can go through those moments and hug it out.” However, instead of developing this idea further, the writer shifts in the second paragraph to a list of qualities a friendship might have, such as good communication and knowing everything about each other. The concluding paragraph continues to move away from the original thesis to provide a personal example of a “really close” friendship, but the details are vague (No matter what me and him are always there for each other; We did a lot of things I can’t explain but I know we had a good time) and do not add substance to the student’s explanation of how true friends remain close despite the occasional argument.

To maintain a strong friendship you need to be a real friend. To be a real friend you need to have respect to others. If you respect you get respect back. To get respect you need to be a real respectful person. That's how a strong friendship is made.

However, to keep a strong friendship you also need trust and being helpful. If you have trust to someone than they will have trust for you too. A strong friendship can maintain strong if you have trust, respect, and be a real friend. Everyone needs a true, strong friendship that's why it is important for others to respect and have some trust to someone.

Maintaining a strong friendship is maintaining yourself strong.

Score Point 1

The writer attempts to address the topic of the prompt by explaining how a person can make and then maintain a strong friendship. The idea of respect as a key factor in friendship is presented in the first paragraph, but the writer has trouble moving beyond repeating the fact that it is necessary (To be a real friend you need to have respect. If you respect you get respect back. To get respect you need to be a real respectful person). The same issue occurs in the second paragraph when the writer focuses on the need for trust in a friendship without actually developing that idea. Because of this repetition and limited word choice, the essay's progression is seriously disrupted, creating a very limited writing performance.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's thesis statement is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

Everyone has friends and best friends, but not every body has true friendship. True friendship is a strong bond and is valuable. True friendship with many another things is trust and always be there for each other.

Trust is one thing that everyone needs to have. In the movie "Pinocchio," Pinocchio had trusted the red head boy instead of listening to Jimminy Cricket. In doing so Pinocchio got into a lot of mischief and trouble. You need to be careful who you trust.

Every body has a time when they need somebody to be there for them. In "Pinocchio" no matter what Pinocchio got himself into Jimminy Cricket was right there by his side. Still even most of what Pinocchio got himself into was always trouble Jimminy was always there to help Pinocchio out. Being there for people shows that you care about them and thats what every body needs, a little care from others.

So be there for your friends and allow them to trust you, be a true friend. Also, remember still have fun thats what friends are for. Enjoy life to the fullest with true friendship, it will be the best.

Score Point 2

In the first paragraph of this basic writing performance, the writer offers the somewhat unclear thesis that “true friendship . . . is trust and always be there for each other.” The first body paragraph addresses the first part of the thesis by discussing the general role of trust in the movie *Pinocchio*, but the writer is unable to connect the example to the idea of trust in friendship (Pinocchio had trusted the red head boy instead of listening to Jiminy Cricket). Providing more context for this example would help make it clearer how it is relevant to the writer’s explanation. Within the second body paragraph, the writer briefly addresses the “be there for each other” portion of the thesis: “no matter what Pinocchio got himself into Jiminy Cricket was right there by his side.” The writer attempts to provide some development for this example by stating that “being there for people shows that you care about them.” The conclusion merely repeats the ideas from the thesis and does not provide additional substance to the response.

As human beings with mind, people prefer having friends instead of being alone. But how? The problem is on how to maintain the precious friendship.

"Friends," the word is defined as people in the same level, willing to help each other and stay together to have fun. Not obeying the definition would wipe away the friendship. People can teach their friends how to play piano or be taught how to cook a new dish, but if they always want to lead their friends in many sides of the life, or always follow their friends' step, the friendship changes into the relationship between students and teachers. In a similar way, people can help ^{their} friends in need, but never do everything for them, which make their friendship become the relationship between beggars and help givers. People are willing to be helped by friends, but if they ask ^{for} too much help, they are likely to be considered as being taking advantages of friends.

A true friendship is based on the equality between everybody involved. Friends play together to have more fun. Friends work together to reach the same goal. People don't want to improve who is greater among friends because friends are equal among each other indeed.

Score Point 2

In the last paragraph of the essay, the writer presents the thesis that "a true friendship is based on the equality between everyone involved." In the main body paragraph, the writer provides two hypothetical examples of how the roles in a friendship could become unequal. Although the student/teacher and beggar/help-giver analogies are appropriate, they are only superficially developed and end up functioning within the essay the same way. Additionally, some awkward phrasing, such as "people can help their friends in need but never do everything for them," causes minor disruptions in the meaning of the writing. The writer attempts to provide clarification but only repeats or rewords these ideas, somewhat stalling the progression of the essay. Overall, this essay represents a basic writing performance.

A friend is someone whom you can talk to and have fun, but what is a true friend? What does it need to take that friendship to a whole new level? The best way to have and maintain a strong friendship is dependence. Once you start to depend on someone, you take the friendship a step forward.

Many people are independent, not as in I don't talk to other people, but as in I can do everything by myself. When someone can't put up with life alone and starts to share his problems with someone else, he sees the person differently. The only problem is, if only one friend depends on the other, one is going to get tired. The true way of complying with this is by alternating in who depends on who.

That's why when a couple deals with problems together, their relationship grows. If only one deals with all the problems, only he grows internally.

Score Point 2

The writer presents the thesis that depending on someone is what takes your friendship a step forward. Some attempt is made to further explore this idea in the single body paragraph, but weak sentence-to-sentence connections make the explanation difficult to follow in some places. The writer tries to add some detail by including hypothetical reasons why friends would need to depend on each other, but the word choice is mostly general and therefore does not help establish an expository tone. In the conclusion, although related topically to the rest of the essay, the writer introduces a new idea of how dependence works between couples. As a result, the conclusion is ineffective and does not add to the quality of this basic response.

My definition of a true friendship is one where my friend is my equal, not my leader or my follower. Friendship is a shared thing, you shouldn't have to obey commands, or issue them. If you are friends with someone, they shouldn't have to ask for help. You should be there for them every step of the way.

Friendship is something that does not require a leader. If friends do something it should be a decision made by the group, not one individual. Nobody should have power over anybody else.

Also, friends should be people that you can talk to and trust. Why would you be friends with someone you can't trust to keep your secrets.

In conclusion I think a true friendship is one where you are not a leader or a follower, and can talk freely to your friends. Next time you see any of your friends think about how many of them you would consider true friends.

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer borrows an idea from the prompt to use as a thesis: “a true friendship is one where my friend is my equal, not my leader or my follower.” The idea of the importance of equality in a friendship is minimally developed in the opening and second paragraphs of the essay when the writer explains that “friendship is a shared thing” that does not “require a leader.” In the third paragraph, the essay moves with only a perfunctory transition to the idea of trust being important between friends. However, this idea receives no further development, and its relationship to the thesis is never clearly established. Throughout the essay, some organizing structure is evident, yet it is not always controlled. The conclusion is brief and only summarizes the ideas presented in the response. Holistically, this essay represents a score point 2.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. Most ideas are related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

Everyone has friends. You can call anyone your friend, but its the type of friendship you have that makes them mean something to you. You could have friends that mean very little to you, or friends that mean a lot. But a true, strong friendship is so much more than just having a few friends.

Pretty much everyone has a few friends that they see in the hall and have a quick conversation with, but that is never as important as talking to someone you have a strong friendship with. A person that you have this kind of friendship with, is usually considered as your best friend.

Your best friend is someone who is there for you whenever you need them, while you return the favor. They laugh and cry with you. You can tell your secrets to them and know that they will never tell. They keep all of their promises, as you do the same. This type of friendship can mean a lot to someone, and if they ever lose the person they have it with, it could change their whole lives. This is what a strong friendship should be like.

In conclusion, not everyone will have a strong friendship with you, but for the ones that do, they will mean everything to you. They will be the ones that care and support you. They will be your everything.

Score Point 3

The writer organizes the essay by contrasting a casual friend with a “best” friend and explaining how the qualities of a best friend create the strongest friendships. This strategy allows the writer to maintain focus throughout the response. The writer provides some specific examples to help differentiate the two kinds of relationships, adding substance to the essay. The essay does reflect some thoughtfulness; for example, the writer states that if people “ever lost the person they have [a true friendship] with, it would change their whole lives.” Sentences are varied and adequately controlled. Overall, this essay demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the expository task.

Imagine two girls telling stories and laughing happily. How do these girls cooperate so coherently? The answer is with friendship. Friendship is two people being able to stay true to themselves in the presence of each other. In order to do that, one and one's friend must have trust and respect for one another.

Trust is important in a comradeship because without it there is no true bond. In the Disney movie *Peter Pan*, Peter says to the children, the only thing they need to fly is, "faith, trust, and pixie dust". The children trust Peter, therefore making their experience a good one, and becoming friends with him. The children have a firm reliance on him and know that he would never hurt them.

One other contributing factor to a true friendship is the respect that friends have for each other. Relationships tend to collapse when there is a lack of respect. In Brittney Murphy's self-titled autobiography, she mentions a time when she and a friend had a falling out. Brittney's friend, Veronica, never respected her as an actress, and after putting her down so many times, Brittney grew tired of Veronica's negativity and ceased talking to her. Once Veronica realized her mistake, she reevaluated her opinions on Brittney's acting and they became closer friends.

Combining trust and respect, are the key ingredients for cooking up a great friendship. Friends always stick together and having these two qualities, helps a lot. Some people may say keeping up a friendship is hard, but it's definitely worth it.

Score Point 3

The writer presents the idea that friends "must have trust and respect for one another." The generally logical and controlled progression of ideas in this essay and the presence of meaningful transitions support the flow of the writer's explanation and help to clarify the relationships among ideas. The writer provides two appropriate examples to support the thesis, one drawn from the movie *Peter Pan*, the other from an anecdote in actress Brittney Murphy's autobiography. Of the former, the writer speaks of the trust the children in the movie place in Peter when he encourages them to fly. The next paragraph describes a rift in Murphy's relationship with her friend Veronica caused by a lack of respect. Both examples include specific details and add to the quality of the response. Overall, the essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

The true definition of having a great friendship is having trust, loyalty, and having fun. Great friendships don't happen often so when you come across one, better keep it. It's better to have a friend than to be right.

First, trust is the number one key to have a true friendship. If you can't have trust in your friendship then why be true friends. You can tell that person anything and they will keep it. Trust will bring you both closer as friends and you will be reliable. If your best friends then you know you can rely on each other.

Second loyalty is also important because you don't want your friend stabbing you in the back. Being loyal means being faithful to a person, true friends will be loyal no matter what. For example if you get in a car accident and lose an arm your friend should love you enough to stay by your side. Loyalty isn't something that just comes naturally you have to work at it.

Furthermore, having a great friendship always requires some fun. Having a great relationship means you can be yourself around them you don't have to coward down and be different. You can laugh and joke around without a care in the world. Also you can love on each other and talk about anything you want without being judged.

True friendships come once in a blue, keeping them is the hardest thing to do. These kind of friendships require trust, loyalty, and having fun. People that are fun and loving are the friends to keep.

Score Point 3

The logical progression of ideas in this essay, supported by the writer's largely effective and meaningful sentence-by-sentence transitions, contributes to this essay representing a satisfactory writing performance. In the first sentence of the essay, the writer provides the clear thesis that "the true definition of having a great friendship is having trust, loyalty, and having fun." The writer addresses each of these ideas individually with appropriate hypothetical and philosophical examples. Although there are some errors in grammar and sentence boundaries, the writer's word choice, for the most part, is clear and specific and reflects an awareness of the expository purpose. Holistically, the essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

A true friend is there for you no matter what. Whether it's homework trouble or boy trouble, a true friend is willing to help. In today's world, it's getting harder to actually have true friends, but it's not impossible. We just have to find someone who is loyal, and shares our interests.

My definition of a true friendship is when both people have each other's backs, and are willing to do anything to keep each other happy. Through ups and downs, they're there supporting each other. I've had several true friends, but one that pops into my mind is my friend, **Sally Smith**. She's always there to encourage me, and is probably one of my biggest supporters. For instance, on my birthday, she stayed up until midnight so that she could send me a three-page text! We maintain a strong friendship by talking out our problems, and spending time together. A true friend is there for you, whether you're right or wrong. They're willing to put aside their beliefs for you. It is important, of course, that you return the favor. A strong friendship can't be one-sided because it's not fair to the other person. They'll probably feel neglected, and leave.

A true friend is there for you no matter what. They're your biggest supporter, and are willing to do anything to see you succeed. Just make sure to support them, and you'll have a very strong friendship. After all, a strong friendship can't be one-sided.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer presents the idea that a true friendship is one in which both friends support each other “no matter what.” The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled with a personal example used as support for the thesis. The writer moves from specific, relevant details about her friend Sally being there for her to a general discussion of how a “strong friendship” requires that both people have Sally’s level of dedication to the relationship. The writer’s word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific and reflects an awareness of the expository purpose.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear thesis statement. All ideas are strongly related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer’s progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer’s train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer’s word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

Acceptance is the base of true friendship. Friendship is not something that requires someone to change. It does not include judgement either. True friendship is only acceptance.

People have different beliefs, customs, styles, etc. Those things are what set people apart from everybody else. True friends accept each other for what ever style or belief they might have. In accepting this, they never have to change or try to "fit in." Instead, they embrace what makes their friend so unique.

Judging others is one of the easiest things to do. It is a bad habit that can make somebody mistake an assumption for a reality. It is in human nature to make assumptions when meeting someone. However, people usually come to find their assumptions to be incorrect. True friendship is not judgment. True friendship is the willingness to get to know a person free of pre-judgmental thoughts. In doing this, one can easily come to accept a person for who they are.

True friendship can last for a very long period of time. This can be accomplished through full acceptance of the other person. That means that friends do not try to "fix" or change one another. They do not judge or assume anything about that person either. They embrace their qualities and get to know them based what they are like with-
in. Everybody is different. Once somebody finds a person that accepts their differences, they have found true friendship.

Score Point 4

In the first paragraph, the writer clearly establishes the thesis that "true friendship is only acceptance." The second paragraph effectively develops this thesis by exploring how friendship is the means through which people find acceptance in spite of the "different beliefs, customs, styles, etc." that "set people apart from everybody else." "True friends," the writer explains, "accept each other for what ever style or belief they might have." The third paragraph further develops this idea by contrasting the notion of acceptance with its opposite, that of "judging others." The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise and contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay. The writer's discussion of human nature and the power of friendship to overcome biases reflects a thoughtful perspective. Overall, this essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

A friendship must always be mutual when it comes to the exchange of ideas and support. A leader and follower friendship may last, but more often than not, the follower may wander off, or the leader might lose them behind. Sometimes people lead the others because they want to direct the course of the relationship in their direction, and sometimes people follow because they need someone to show them the way, or because they are more comfortable behind someone, than being vulnerable, out in the open. Or, many times, it can be more honest than that. It can be that one understands more of a topic than another, or that one has more stories to tell, and the other simply comments upon it. But even then, sometimes leaders become tired of being the only one contributing, and followers get tired always listening to someone else's problems. A truly healthy friendship is when friends stand side by side, every action they make together an agreement, not a command. Friends don't have hidden requests of each other to shy to share, or hide any cracks in the armor. Friends bare it all. And when friends stand beside each other, only through mutual agreement can they break their bonds. Every challenge along the way is an obstacle for the both of them. There's no stacking the weight of your issues on another's shoulder, or taking full responsibility for theirs. Friends like that don't last long, they succumb under the pressure of each others expectations. True friends, however, should never let that be able to happen, for true friends should know when the other is down, and why, and stick by their side the most, even when they seem like they want it the least, letting them know, and have, your friendship, instead of simply stepping off the path before the other even knows you're gone.

Score Point 4

The writer of this compelling essay thoughtfully considers the quotation provided in the writing prompt in order to effectively explain the thesis that a friendship “must always be mutual when it comes to the exchange of ideas and support.” The sentence structure is varied and well controlled, and the organizing structure is appropriate to the purpose. Before moving to the ideal friendship relationship, the writer considers the pitfalls, both of being a follower and of being a leader, as well as the reasons that might cause one to assume these roles in a relationship. The writer clearly contrasts these roles and concludes that the best approach is for friends to stand together and to assist each other in all endeavors as equals. The writer’s specific word choice and specific imagery enhance the quality of the explanation and demonstrate a strong understanding of the expository task. Although some errors occur in sentence boundaries and conventions, these errors do not detract from the overall clarity of the essay.

Friendship is a delicate balance of trust, honesty, compassion, and communication. It may be a difficult balance to keep, but those four principles are the keys to maintaining a strong friendship. During World War II, Anne Frank's family and friends were forced into hiding to escape persecution by Adolf Hitler and his army. They were confined for months in the same space, eating, sleeping, and socializing together. To most, this may seem torturous, but Anne was able to build friendships with the others. There was an enormous level of trust among the group. They had to trust the people bringing them food and concealing their location. They had compassion and understanding for each other, because they were in the same situation. These qualities built a unique and strong friendship between the household. In *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, a group of young revolutionaries known as Les Amis show an incredible example of friendship. These young men rebel against the armies of France, fighting for freedom from the rule of the king. They are honest in communicating while planning for the revolution, and they instill courage and bravery in one another. They fight a courageous battle together, and even through defeat they stay together. The strong bonds of their friendship endure even through death. When you're my size, friends tend to come and go, fights happen, sometimes you forgive, other times you don't. Friendships often have a shaky foundation. Rarely do you have a friendship that lasts through your school years. There was a girl who was my best friend for almost 8 years. Our relationship was built on trust and communication. We talked all the time, did everything together, and seemed inseparable. At the start of junior high, we no longer spoke. We had no communication at all. We grew farther and farther apart. When I look back I realize it was a lack of communication that tore our friendship apart. I now value that aspect greatly in my current friendships. Friends may look differently, think differently, and have different opinions. But if you value trust, honesty, compassion, and communication in a relationship, you can build a friendship that endures all.

Score Point 4

The writer of this accomplished essay, defines friendship as “a delicate balance of trust, honesty, compassion, and communication.” The writer provides specific support for the thesis, drawing examples from history, literature, and personal experience. The writer discusses the friendships Anne Frank and her family formed as they hid from Hitler’s army. Next, the writer gives the example of the young rebels in *Les Misérables*, who form bonds of friendship that “endure even through death.” In these quotations and throughout the essay as a whole, the writer demonstrates a command of language that greatly contributes to the effectiveness of the essay. The final example is personal in nature; the writer speaks of a longtime friendship that eventually ended. In the conclusion, the writer thoughtfully expands on the thesis by explaining that “if you value trust, honesty, compassion, and communication in a relationship, you can build a friendship that endures all.”

Friendship is a binding force of society. Friendship is what allows humans to live and work together. Throughout the world, you can witness friendship of various magnitude anywhere. However, to find "true friendship" is a rarity. True friendship is a commodity so powerful that nothing can break it. Examples of the extremely powerful true friendship can be found in service dogs and in marital relationships.

Throughout the world, dogs, or "man's best friend", are being utilized for various tasks. From helping biologists locate plants, to simply providing comfort, the canine is an excellent example of friendship. More specifically, one service dog named Ralph and his owner, are an example of true friendship. After being together for more than 30 years, due to Ralph's owner's blindness, the two built a very strong friendship. One day however, while Ralph's owner was walking down the stairs, he fell almost an entire story. Ralph's owner was seriously injured and moaning, and Ralph immediately ran outside and barked at a neighbor's door. This caused the neighbor to follow Ralph back to his wounded owner, who then phoned the police, which saved Ralph's owner's life. The two are healthy and continue to live together. Another prime example of true friendship can be seen in an elderly couple that lives in Texas. The two have been married for more than 60 years and love each other immensely, and are also each others' true and best friends. After 50 years of marriage, the wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. This greatly affected the couple's relationship as she was always forgetting how to do things (like holding a fork, etc.) and became difficult to live with. However, through true friendship and love, the husband cared for his dying wife on hand and foot, and continues to do so today.

Both examples of true friendship show how true friendship can overcome any conflict, and not be broken. True friendship is constantly defined in society as people observe it in their everyday life, and friendship will always be the true linking force of society.

Score Point 4

In the first paragraph of the essay, the writer describes friendship as "a binding force of society" that allows "humans to live and work together." "However," the writer continues, "to find 'true friendship' is a rarity." Having clearly established the thesis of the essay, the writer presents two examples of true friendship. The first is of a service dog who proves his loyalty by seeking aid after his owner is injured in a fall. The second example focuses on an elderly man who assumed the care of his wife after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In the final paragraph, the writer thoughtfully remarks that "both examples of true friendship show how true friendship can overcome any conflict, and not be broken." Although the transition between the examples is somewhat perfunctory, the connection between the examples is evident due to the student's thorough explanation and clear thesis. The progression of ideas, logical organization, and well-chosen support make this essay representative of an accomplished writing performance.