

## The Assignment

This excerpt describes an encounter between a young tennis player and a thoughtful scout. Even though the player feels like giving up on the game, the scout encourages him to accept his emotions and work even harder in the future.

**What is your opinion of the idea that perseverance is an essential human quality?**

You **must**:

- Discuss a character from literature or film that you have studied in English Language Arts 30–2. You may choose to discuss more than one character.
- Ensure the details you select support your opinion of the idea that perseverance is an essential human quality.
- Present your ideas in *prose*.

You **should**:

- Reflect upon your own knowledge and/or experience and/or the reading selection provided.
- Use the *Initial Planning* section on page 9 to help you plan your response. Carefully consider your *controlling idea* or how you will create a *strong unifying* effect.
- Select a character who is relevant to your ideas about the topic and interesting to you from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, nonfiction, or films that you have studied in English Language Arts 30–2.
- Organize your discussion so that your ideas are clearly and effectively presented.

**English Language Arts 30–2**  
**Literary Exploration Assignment, January 2014**  
**Example Scored Satisfactory (S)**

Every person has the ability to persevere when life or situations get tough. Perseverance is an essential quality because it helps get through the tough situations in our everyday lives. I am using my own personal experience, the reading by Andre Agassi, and the novel "Cellist of Sarajevo"

In my own life, I have had to persevere a few times when things got tough or didn't go the way I wanted them to. One time was when my horse passed away and I thought I would never get another horse like him but now I have two and they are as kind and as gentle as he was. I am thankful for that. Another time in my life where I have had to persevere was when my grandmother passed away. It was very sad but with the help of my family and own inner strength I have been able to cope.

In the reading called Open by Andre Agassi it is about when he was young and he was playing tennis and he lost to a kid that was two years older than him. He said he never wanted to play tennis ever again but then he meets a man named Rudy who scouts for a tennis player named Pancho Segura and says that at the moment he never wants to play tennis but if he works hard and uses that loss as motivation he will be an even better tennis player.

In the novel "Cellist of Sarajevo" one of the main characters named Kennan has to get water for his family and it is all the way across the city and there is a war going on all around the city and he has to look out for enemy snipers while crossing the street. He has to persevere that the war will be over soon so he can look out for his family. It is very important that people persevere in times of war.

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Thank you for reading my essay. Perseverance is a very important quality in humans. I used my own personal experience, the reading by Andre Agassi, and the novel "Cellist of Sarajevo

**English Language Arts 30–2 January 2014  
Assignment II: Literary Exploration**

**EXAMPLE PAPER—Satisfactory (S)**

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p><b>Thought and Support (S)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A defensible understanding of the topic is demonstrated.</li> <li>• The student’s ideas are appropriately and straightforwardly explored.</li> <li>• The literary example is related adequately to the student’s ideas.</li> <li>• Support is relevant but tends to be general.</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>defensible understanding</b> of the <b>topic</b> is demonstrated: “Perseverance is a very important quality in humans.”</p> <p>The student’s <b>ideas</b> are <b>appropriately</b> and <b>straightforwardly explored</b> in the discussion of the student’s personal experience (“I have had to preserve a few times”) and in the discussion of <i>The Cellist of Sarajevo</i> (“It is very important that people preserve in times of war”).</p> <p>The <b>literary example</b> is <b>related adequately</b> to the student’s ideas, as in “He has to preserve that the war will be over soon so he can look out for his family.”</p> <p><b>Support</b> is <b>relevant</b> but tends to be <b>general</b>: “Another time in my life where I have had to preserve was when my grandmother passed away. It was very sad but with the help of my family and my own inner strength I have been able to cope” and “Kennan has to get water for his family and it is all the way across the city and there is a war going on all around the city.”</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">S</p>
<p><b>Form and Structure (S)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A controlling idea or unifying effect is evident, but unity may falter on occasion.</li> <li>• Development of ideas and explanations is generally clear and coherent.</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>controlling idea</b> is <b>evident</b> in the discussions about the student’s personal experiences with loss and Kennan’s experiences with war, but <b>unity falters</b> in the discussion of the excerpt (“if he works hard and uses that loss as motivation he will be an even better tennis player”).</p> <p><b>Development</b> of <b>ideas</b> and <b>explanations</b> is <b>generally clear</b> and <b>coherent</b> in the use of the “personal experience, the reading by Andre Agassi, and the novel ‘Cellist of Sarajevo’.”</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">S</p>

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p><b>Matters of Choice (S)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diction is appropriate but may be general rather than specific.</li> <li>• Sentence structures are generally straightforward and clear.</li> <li>• Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a clear voice.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diction</b> is <b>appropriate</b> but is <b>general</b> rather than specific – “things got tough,” “It was very sad,” and “so he can look out for his family.”</p> <p><b>Sentence structures</b> are <b>generally straightforward</b> and <b>clear</b>, as in “Every person has the ability to persevere when life or situations get tough,” “I am thankful for that,” and “Thank you for reading my essay.”</p> <p><b>Stylistic choices</b> contribute to the creation of a <b>clear voice</b> in sentences such as “One time was when my horse passed away and I thought I would never get another horse like him but now I have two and they are as kind and as gentle as he was.”</p>	<p><b>S</b></p>
<p><b>Matters of Correctness (S)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This writing demonstrates control of the basics of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics.</li> <li>• There may be occasional lapses in control of sentence construction and usage, and/or minor errors in grammar and mechanics.</li> <li>• The communication, however, is clear.</li> </ul>	<p>This writing demonstrates <b>control</b> of the <b>basics</b> of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics: “Every person has the ability to persevere when life or situations get tough” and “Perseverance is a very important quality in humans.”</p> <p>There are <b>occasional lapses</b> in control of <b>usage</b> (“situations in out everyday lives” and “he never wanted to play tennis every again”) and <b>minor errors</b> in <b>mechanics</b> (“I used my own personal experience, the reading by Andre Agassi, and the novel ‘Cellist of Sarajevo’”).</p> <p>The <b>communication</b>, however, is <b>clear</b>.</p>	<p><b>S</b></p>

Is perseverance an essential human quality? Chris McCandless persevered to get to Alaska, he would have NEVER made it otherwise. Andy Burfrance would have been wrongfully imprisoned for life had he not been determined to escape. Without perseverance an individual cannot achieve his or her goals.

Chris McCandless' life goal was to make it to Alaska. To get there he had to give up most if not all of his possessions, family, and friends he made along the way. Even when facing major set backs, such as almost being arrested for sneaking across the Mexico-United States border, he was always determined to get to Alaska and live off of the land. Chris persevered through all of the hardships that came his way and made it to Alaska, achieving his goal.

Andy Dufranse was wrongfully imprisoned for the murder of his wife and her lover. He was sent to Shawshank Prison to serve two life sentences. The entire time Andy was in that prison he was trying to escape. The way he escaped was with a rock hammer he got from a smuggler and friend inside the prison. Andy used the rock hammer to tunnel through the walls, it took him twenty years to escape, and in those twenty years he was raped, beaten, and put into solitary confinement for months on end. Yet he never gave up, and in the end he escaped from Shawshank Prison, completing his goal.

My personal goal is to become a video game producer and designer. I have gotten a job to save up money for post-secondary education in that field, and I have looked into many schools to go to for further

education in computer science. I have also been trying to improve my marks to meet their standards and if I have to I will upgrade some of my courses. I will never lose faith in myself no matter how hard things get. I will do anything to achieve my goal.

Without perseverance one can never achieve their goals. Just like Chris McCandless, Andy Dufresne, and myself. You have to be determined and willing to do anything to achieve your goals.



**English Language Arts 30–2 January 2014  
Assignment II: Literary Exploration**

**EXAMPLE PAPER—Proficient (Pf)**

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p><b>Thought and Support (Pf)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well-considered understanding of the topic is demonstrated.</li> <li>• The student’s ideas are thoughtfully explored.</li> <li>• The literary example is related competently to the student’s ideas.</li> <li>• Support is specific and relevant.</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>well-considered understanding</b> of the topic is demonstrated through the student’s discussion that “Without perseverance an individual cannot achieve his or her goals.”</p> <p>The student’s <b>ideas</b> are <b>thoughtfully explored</b>, as in “Chris McCandless’ life goal was to make it to Alaska,” “The entire time Andy was in that prison he was trying to escape,” and “My personal goal is to become a video game producer and designer.”</p> <p>The <b>literary examples</b> from <i>Into the Wild</i> and <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> are <b>related competently</b> to the student’s ideas in the explanations of how “Chris persevered through all of the hardships that came his way and made it to Alaska, achieving his goal” and how Andy “never gave up, and in the end he escaped from Shawshank Prison, completing his goal.”</p> <p><b>Support</b> is <b>specific</b> and <b>relevant</b>, as in “Even when facing major setbacks, such as almost being arrested for sneaking across the Mexico-United States border, he was always determined to get to Alaska and live off of the land,” “Andy used the rock hammer to tunnel through the walls, it took him twenty years to escape, and in those twenty years he was raped, beaten, and put into solitary confinement for months on end,” and “I have gotten a job to save up money for post-secondary education in that field, and I have looked into many schools to go to for further education in computer science. I have also been trying to improve my marks to meet their standards.”</p>	<p><b>Pf</b></p>

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p><b>Form and Structure (Pf)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A controlling idea or unifying effect is sustained throughout the response.</li> <li>• Development of ideas and explanations is coherent.</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>controlling idea</b> is <b>sustained</b> throughout the response from the discussion of how Chris “was always determined to get to Alaska and live off of the land,” to how “Andy used the rock hammer to tunnel through the walls,” through to the student’s assertion that “I will never lose faith in myself no matter how hard things get.”</p> <p><b>Development</b> of ideas and explanations is coherent through the discussion of how “You have to be determined and willing to do anything to achieve your goals.”</p>	<p>Pf</p>
<p><b>Matters of Choice (Pf)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diction is specific and generally effective.</li> <li>• Many sentences appear to have been purposefully structured for effect.</li> <li>• Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a competent voice.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diction</b> is <b>specific</b> and <b>generally effective</b>: “wrongfully imprisoned,” “smuggler and friend,” and “lose faith in myself.”</p> <p><b>Many sentences</b> appear to have been <b>purposefully structured</b> for effect, as in “Andy Durfranse would have been wrongfully imprisoned for life had he not been determined to escape” and “Even when facing major set backs, such as almost being arrested for sneaking across the Mexico-United States border, he was always determined to get to Alaska and live off of the land.”</p> <p><b>Stylistic choices</b> contribute to the creation of a <b>competent voice</b>, as in “Is perseverance an essential human quality? Chris McCandless persevered to get to Alaska, he would have never made it otherwise” and “To get there he had to give up most if not all of his possessions, family, and friends he made along the way.”</p>	<p>Pf</p>

<p><b>Matters of Correctness (Pf)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This writing demonstrates competent control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics.</li> <li>• Minor errors in mechanics, grammar, and/or complex language structures are understandable considering the circumstances.</li> </ul>	<p>This writing demonstrates <b>competent control</b> of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics: “Chris persevered through all of the hardships that came his way and made it to Alaska, achieving his goal” and “The way he escaped was with a rock hammer he got from a smuggler and friend inside the prison.”</p> <p><b>Minor errors</b> in mechanics, grammar, and/or complex language structures are understandable considering the circumstances.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Pf</b></p>
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