



ISASP IOWA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT of
STUDENT PROGRESS

ISASP Writing
Released Writing Prompt,
Sample Student Essays, and
Scoring Notes

Grade 10

ISASP Writing

Released Writing Prompt, Sample Student Essays, and Scoring Notes

This document contains the following information:

- 1) A released ISASP Writing prompt that was previously administered to students in the relevant grade as part of the ISASP Language/Writing test.
- 2) A copy of the scoring rubric that was used to guide scoring.
- 3) Five samples of actual student responses to the prompt that illustrate a range of scores.
- 4) For each writing sample, a set of scoring notes created at the time of scoring that provide articulations around score point decisions.

Released responses can be examined to better understand how well students are demonstrating writing skills with respect to the four traits that are evaluated as part of the ISASP Writing test. Responses can also be used to gain a better understanding of how ISASP is scored and the application of the rubric to the individual response.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Writing Prompt

In one of your classes, students discussing the effects of television collected information about television viewing. Read the information. Then, write an essay to share with students in your class in which you argue whether watching television is more beneficial or more harmful to individuals.

You should use details from the information you are given when you support your opinion. Remember to use your own words. Do not copy. You may also add your own ideas. Since every issue has multiple positions, your essay should demonstrate awareness of opposing ideas. The Writing Checklist will help you remember important parts of a piece of writing.

Writing Checklist

As you write, remember to:

- Communicate your main ideas clearly.
- Use reasons, details, and examples from the information you are given to develop your writing. You may also add your own ideas.
- Provide clear and logical organization. Include an opening and closing. Use paragraphs and linking words.
- Use precise words and language appropriate for your audience.
- Check your work for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

This article appeared on a sports publication website.

Gather Around the Television

This weekend, many Americans will gather with family members around a television to watch football. Some will intently watch their favorite team. Others will display mere casual interest. A few might click on a television only for the sake of background noise. No matter the level of fervor, ratings suggest 18.6 million viewers will tune in to witness a live football contest on Sunday night.

Sharlene Mooks is a member of a family of regular football viewers. She recalls one Sunday when her grandmother refused to let anyone in the family eat the dinner for which they were invited until after the Detroit vs. Minnesota game. "She had become a big Detroit fan. We all huddled around the T.V. I remember everything started burning in the kitchen. But Gamma wanted to see a win for the Lions. The neighbors probably heard us cheering at least two miles away."

Numbers show a true following for televised games. The 1967 Super Bowl between Green Bay and Kansas City gathered 51.18 million viewers together. This was at a time when most households had a single television set with only 3-4 channels broadcasting. In 2015, a record 114.44 million viewers watched Super Bowl XLIX pitting New England against Seattle. These 2015 viewers had many more options. Yet they still all chose to watch the same game.

Whether due to football, food or family, ratings show we frequently come together around a television.

This article was published in a professional sociology journal.

Television Viewing and Its Results

Conventional television viewing has decreased over the past 20 years. However, today, devices such as computers, tablets, and cell phones can be used to view television content. If programming on all such devices is considered, then viewing actually has gone up.

Watching a lot of TV has long been linked to a variety of negative traits in young people. Kids who spend a lot of time watching television report having fewer feelings of contentment compared to kids who watch less television. Heavy TV viewers earn fewer grades of A or B in school. They also participate in after-school activities less often.

Some of the effects of a heavy television habit can't be seen right away. Very young viewers often have attention problems later in life. People who watched television a lot as teens report sleep problems into their twenties. Early studies of people who used media a lot (television, Internet, and video games) suspected a link to lack of physical activity in those individuals. However, a 2010 report found no evidence that media use affects users in this way.

Television, in fact, may not deserve its bad reputation. If viewed in reasonable amounts, there is some benefit to television. TV is a rich source for learning. Documentaries provide information that can challenge viewers to think critically. World news programs remind viewers we live in a global society. Home channels teach how to do everything from redecorate to fix a leaky faucet.

Television also has psychological benefits. Critics dismiss television viewing as an escape from reality. In fact, that may be healthy. According to a 2017 study, watching television lowers women's cortisol levels. Cortisol is often called the "stress hormone." So television can help viewers de-stress and avoid some health concerns.

TV can aid viewers socially as well. A 2016 study revealed that couples who do not share many friends in common often do not feel satisfied with their relationship. However, when these couples watched the same television show—or read the same books—they reported close relationships as frequently as did the couples with shared friends.

**Grade 10 Argument Rubric**

	Prompt Task	Development of Argument	Organization	Language Use
5	Provides a thoughtful context for the issue. Takes a clear, considered position. Addresses both strengths and limitations of the writer's own viewpoint and/or of alternative viewpoint(s) without weakening position. Successfully uses ample relevant evidence from provided texts to support ideas. Anticipates audience's knowledge and concerns about the issue.	Develops claim(s) by providing several thoughtful supporting ideas with complete explanation. Effectively explains ideas using ample specific, relevant, and somewhat elaborated reasons, examples, and/or details.	Has a clear, well-developed introduction. Provides a logical concluding statement or section. Organizes ideas effectively, using clear and appropriate paragraphing within a coherent whole. Consistently uses effective and varied transition words, phrases, and clauses within and between major sections of text to enhance coherence.	Uses precise and varied word choice. Effectively varies sentence length and complexity. Establishes and maintains an objective tone and a style appropriate for the designated audience and purpose throughout the argument.
4	Writer's position on the issue is clear. Offers limited discussion of strengths and limitations of writer's own viewpoint and/or alternative viewpoint(s) without weakening position. Appropriately uses some evidence from provided texts to support ideas.	Develops claim(s) by providing several supporting ideas with adequate explanation. Explanation of ideas includes some specific and relevant reasons, examples, and/or details.	Has a clear, somewhat developed introduction. Provides a clear concluding statement or section. Uses appropriate paragraphing. Consistently uses simple and/or repetitive transitions within and between sections of text.	Uses mostly specific and somewhat varied word choice. Demonstrates adequate control of sentences with some variety in length and structure. Establishes an objective tone and a style appropriate for the designated audience and purpose and maintains them through most of the argument.
3	Writer's position on the issue can be understood from the response as a whole. Acknowledges alternative viewpoint(s) without weakening position. Evidence from provided texts is used but is limited, overused, or misrepresented.	Develops claim(s) by providing a few supporting ideas with limited or uneven explanation. Explanation of ideas includes few or only general reasons, examples, and/or details, and a few reasons, examples, and/or details may be repetitious or may not be clearly relevant.	Provides a basic introduction and basic concluding statement or section. Generally groups related ideas together in paragraphs but the relationship among ideas may at times be unclear or parts of the argument may seem out of place. Sometimes uses transitions within and between sections of text.	Uses general word choice. Demonstrates a little variety in sentence structure, although there may be a few long, uncontrolled sentences. Demonstrates some understanding of an objective tone and a style appropriate for designated audience and purpose but fails to maintain them throughout the argument.

**Grade 10 Argument Rubric**

	Prompt Task	Development of Argument	Organization	Language Use
2	Writer's position on the issue changes within the response or is otherwise confusing. Any reference to alternative viewpoint(s) weakens writer's position. Attempts to use evidence from provided texts are unsuccessful (text sections are lifted exactly, misunderstood, or not relevant to the ideas they are used in support of).	Develops claim(s) by providing a few supporting ideas but explanation is minimal and/or superficial, and parts may be repetitious or not relevant.	Has minimal evidence of an introduction and/or a concluding statement or section. Groups a few related ideas together within the response but overall demonstrates weak paragraphing skills. Use of transitions is not controlled and may cause confusion.	Demonstrates simple and/or repetitive word choice. Uses repetitive sentence structure and/or long, uncontrolled sentences. Demonstrates limited understanding of objective tone and/or style appropriate for designated audience and purpose; tone or style is somewhat distracting.
1	Writer does not take a position on the issue. Any reference to alternative viewpoint(s) creates confusion about writer's position. No attempt is made to use evidence from provided texts to support ideas.	Provides a few ideas but lacks explanation of ideas, only repeats ideas, or most ideas are not relevant. May demonstrate a lack of understanding of the purpose of argument writing.	Lacks an introduction and a concluding statement or section. Demonstrates no understanding of paragraphing (or response may be too short to assess). Transitions are not used.	Uses awkward, incorrect, and/or confusing word choice and sentence structure. Fails to achieve an objective tone and/or a style appropriate for the designated audience and purpose; tone or style is distracting.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 1

Gathering around the television it is just to get you and your family to get closer to just watch football or any sport. But that is a lot of people that watch football on Sunday nights. Phones do get in the way well people are trying to watch a football game. No matter what people find out a way to have fun watching football with food or just chill with your family. In the past 20 years the viewer went down because people are watching the football game on their phone not on the television. In 2016 many friends do not feel satisfied with their relationships.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 1 – Scoring Notes

Trait	Score	Scoring Notes
Prompt Task	1	The essay takes no position on whether watching television is beneficial, instead simply writing about the subject of watching television and reacting to random information from the passages.
Development	1	The few ideas provided are not relevant to an explanation, and the response demonstrates a lack of understanding of the purpose of argument writing.
Organization	1	The response has no introduction or conclusion, though it uses a few transitional phrase (<i>No matter what, In the past 20 years, In 2016</i>). Similar ideas are not grouped together. Overall, there is not enough evidence of organization to earn a score higher than 1.
Language Use	2	Word choice is simple, and the sentences are not confusing. The response demonstrates some understanding of an objective tone (<i>In 2016 many friends do not feel satisfied with thererelationships</i>).

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 2

Television is more harmful to individuals because students tend to do worse in school and studies show that kids who watch more tv have lower gpa's and hardly have any A's or B's. Students who watch more tv also rarely do any activities or do sports because they rather stay inside and watch tv.

Watching television is more beneficial because families that love watching sports programs often watch the game as a family. Often big events like the super bowl you make a big party and everyone comes to your house at the event you're hosting are other benefits.

Television is both harmful and beneficial depending on why you're watching tv. You shouldn't watch tv if you have been watching it for too long or if what you're watching isn't beneficial.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 2 – Scoring Notes

Trait	Score	Scoring Notes
Prompt Task	2	The writer's position changes in the response (<i>Television is more harmful Watching television is more beneficial</i>) until it settles on both sides of the issue in the conclusion (<i>Television is both harmful and beneficial depening on why you're watchig tv</i>). Evidence used from the source texts is not supportive of the rationale for the final position.
Development	2	Each side of the position is developed quite superficially, giving a couple of details for the harms (. . . <i>hardly have any A's or B's. Students who watch more rarely do any activites or sports because they rather stay inside and watch tv</i>). A confusing attempt is made to explain television's benefits to families and big events.
Organization	2	There is a minimal concluding section and related ideas are grouped. A single transitional word is used (<i>also</i>).
Language Use	2	Word choice is limited, often borrowed from source materials. Sentences are not confusing but are limited in variety, and while there is an attempt at an objective tone (<i>Television is more harmful to individuals because students tend to do worse in school</i>), it is not successfully sustained (. . . <i>you make a big party and everyone comes to your house</i>).

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 3

Any average person can say that they've watched tv on their free time or even taken time out of their day to watch something in particular. A staggering 18.6 million people gathered around a tv one particular Sunday night to watch football, but what is it that may lay behind these big numbers that we don't see much meaning to? Watching television is more harmful than beneficial given that is more TV intake means lower grades, and possible future health problems.

As many young adults may understand school is a very high on almost everyone's priority list. Having good grades and an overall good life style is something very crucial that teens need to have. Studies have shown that a lot of TV watching has been linked to a variety of negative effects on young people. Problems can vary from, low grades, attention problems, and even sleeping problems later on in life. Low physical activity is also one of the later on problems one can develop, meaning it could lead to even more future problems like, obesity or maybe even just the overall lack of daily physical activity. Yes television can be a way to enjoy time with family and friends which could possibly help create or help a bond grow as well. Creating new bonds and strengthening your current ones with loved ones is something one should not shy away from, but it is also something that could be just as or in this case even more harmful than it is beneficial.

Just like every argument there are two sides, but in this case you can strongly see the difference on how more TV is more emotionally beneficial than physically and less TV is more physically beneficial than emotionally. Good grades, having a good healthy life style comes before the need for more family time.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 3 – Scoring Notes

Trait	Score	Scoring Notes
Prompt Task	3	The writer's position can be understood from the response as a whole, and the response also acknowledges an alternative viewpoint (<i>Yes television can be a way to enjoy time with family and friends which could possibly help create of help a bond grow as well</i>). Evidence from the source materials is present, but limited (<i>people gathered around a tv one particular SUn day, a variety of negative effects on young people</i>).
Development	3	Ideas are given uneven development, with the school discussion given more attention than the single sentence about health. Some ideas are repeated (<i>. . . more TV intake means lower grades, and possible future health problems</i>), only a few details included (<i>18.6 million, low grades, sleeping problems</i>), and one idea left unexplained (<i>Creating new bonds . . . is also something that could be just as or in this case even more harmful then it is beneficial</i>).
Organization	3	The response has a somewhat developed introduction and a short concluding section. Ideas show some grouping, although the relationship between the two main ideas isn't clarified until the concluding statement (<i>Good grades, having a good healthy life style comes before the need for more family time</i>). Transitions are few, but sentence structures help to link ideas.
Language Use	3	Word choice is general (<i>a good healthy life style</i>), and attempts to employ topic-specific vocabulary are unsuccessful (<i>Low physical activity is also one of the later on problems one can develop, meaning it could lead to even more future problmes like, obesity or maybe even just the overall lack of daily physical activity</i>). Sentence structures show some variety, with occasional awkwardness (<i>. . . what is it that may lay behind these big numbers that we don't see much meaning to? . . . you can strongly see the difference on how more TV is more emotionally beneficial then physicallly and lessTV is more physically beneficial then emotionally</i>).

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 4

In 2015 for the Super Bowl XLIX, 114.44 million people tuned in to watch. Despite that they were other things to watch many choose this. And out of all those people imagine how many of those grouped up to watch it together. This is to show that television is a benefit to be watching. For television helps with learning, has psychological benefits, and brings people together

First, for many years television has been linked to negative outcomes. Some are to say that television is the reason to why kids get bad grades, of to why some can't sleep. But a 2010 report results showed that media uses has no affect in the ways. But it is the other way around. Television is benefited for viewers for learning. You could be scrolling through channels and happen to come across a tutorial. After watching it it gives you the knowledge for later on. Who knows when it might come into use. But not just tutorials, also documentaries, for they're never false and always true.

Next, it has psychological benefits. For a sickness to be treated should be taken upon and treated. Why should it be put away for some to say that the treatment is harsh. Well this goes into television helping with cortisol levels, for women. This is from a 2017 study. Cortisol levels, also know as "stress hormones", can be helped by watching television. It is an escape from reality for some. For the ones watching it can relax and enjoy a show. For if cortisol levels are high it could lead to high blood pressure, depression, and a weak immune system. One after another you could be getting sick all the time and having your blood pressure through the roof.

Finally it helps bring other together. Football, everyone enjoys. Yet not everyone can attend. So what is the alternative for not being able to attendeding it? What is the next best thing? Well i'm glad you asked for television is the next best thing. For the ones thinking, "what if i don't got a television", or "what if i can't afford it", this goes into my reasoning. For the ones who don't got a television, or can't afford it don't worry. Football always seems to break records for viewers for the ones who can't watch it can make plans with others and watch it together. One thing leads to another, when a couple of friends get togther more friends get together. Not only does it get people together, but helps people stay together. Couples who watch the same television show are reported to have just as

close of a relationship as those who are couples with shared friends, shows from a study from 2016. For television brings people together with out them even noticing.

In conclusion television is helpful in many ways, as to help learning, psychological benefits, and it brings people together. Despite the reasons i just stated, suprisingly they are yet more reasons to why television benefits. Television is not just a mere appliance, for it is an essential for all to have.

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 4 – Scoring Notes

Trait	Score	Scoring Notes
Prompt Task	4	The writer's position on the issue is clear, with a limited discussion of the alternative viewpoint (<i>First, for many years television has been linked to negative outcomes. Some are to say that television is the reason to why kids get bad grades, of [or] to why some can't sleep</i>). The response makes use of evidence from both of the provided texts to support the writer's position (<i>For television helps with learning, has psycological benefits, and brings people together</i>).
Development	4	Supporting ideas show adequate explanation that includes some specific examples (<i>Couples who watch the same television show are reported to have just as close of a relationship as those what are couples with shared friends, shows a study from 2016. For television brings people together with out them even noticing</i>).
Organization	4	The response has a clear organization with a somewhat developed introduction and conclusion and appropriate paragraphing. Simple transitions are used between paragraphs, and transitional phrases and sentences within paragraphs help to relate ideas (<i>But it is the other way around. . . . So what is the alternative for not being able to attedning it? What is the next best thing? . . . Despite the reasons I just stated</i>).
Language Use	3	Word choice is general, lacking precision, and attempts to use topic-specific language are not successful (<i>One after another you could be getting sick all the time and having your blood pressure through the roof</i>). Sentences are mostly short, and some sentences show problems with control (<i>Why should it be put away for some to say that the treatment is harsh</i>). The writing shows some understanding of an objective tone, although it is not maintained throughout the writing (<i>Television is not just a mere appliance, for it is an essential for all to have</i>).

ISASP Writing Grade 10

Sample Essay 5

Television: Good or Bad?

The world as we know it is powered by media. Many people get their news and entertainment strictly from television. Television is something that can be both good and bad for both individuals and families. Television can entertain and television can take away from time that could be spent bonding with family. Television is ultimately beneficial because it entertains and informs the public.

Television is a primary source of entertainment to many people. Entertainment has positive effects on people in many ways. A person who is entertained is happier and less stressed. Television, thusly, can be used to relieve stress and negative emotions. While one could argue that radio does the same thing, radio doesn't have as far of a reach, and also doesn't appeal to as many senses. Not only can television help allieve stress through entertainment, but also keep the public informed.

Many people trust TV to keep them informed on global and more local events. People tune into news channels so they know the weather, what's happening in their country, and even what's happening across the globe! People also watch documentaries on television, which are a great way of holding interest and informing simultaneously. Finally, many businesses rely on television to advertise their goods and services. While one could argue that radio could also do this, it does not appeal to as many senses, and thus, certain information might not get across or one might not pay enough attention. Of course, while the lack of attention could be due to TV watching itself, there's a plethora of other reasons why one might not pay attention. For these reasons, television is beneficial.

To conclude, television is ultimately beneficial, despite its faults, because it entertains and informs the people. By entertaining the people, it makes people healthier and happier. By informing people, it keeps people caught up on news, knowledgable about certain topics, and also benefits businesses. Health and knowledge are, arguably, two of the most important and powerful things one could have today. Television ultimately benefits society as a whole, despite the faults it has, and while that doesn't mean everyone who shuns television has to watch it to be healthy or well informed, it wouldn't hurt to give it a try.

ISASP Writing Grade 10
Sample Essay 5 – Scoring Notes

Trait	Score	Scoring Notes
Prompt Task	5	The writer provides a thoughtful context for the issue (<i>The world as we know it is powered by media. Many people get their news and entertainment from television</i>) and addresses the limitations of the writer's own viewpoint (<i>While one could argue that radio does the same thing</i>) without weakening the argument (<i>Television ultimately benefits society as a whole, despite the faults it has</i>). The response successfully uses evidence from the provided texts (<i>By entertaining the people, it makes people happier and healthier</i>).
Development	5	The response develops claims with ample specific reasons (<i>People tune into new channels so they know the weather, what's happening in their country, and even what's happening across the globe!</i>).
Organization	5	The introduction and conclusion are both clear and well-developed, and the response provides a logical concluding statement. Coherence is enhanced with the use of varied transitional words and phrases (<i>thusly; While one could argue; also; Not only; but also; Finally; Of course, while; For these reasons; To conclude</i>).
Language Use	5	Word choice is precise and varied (<i>entertains and informs the public, negative emotions, advertise their goods and services, knowledgeable, shuns</i>). Sentences are varied in length and complexity, and a style appropriate for the audience is consistently maintained (<i>. . . while that doesn't mean everyone who shuns television has to watch it to be healthy or well informed, it wouldn't hurt to give it a try</i>).