



2020

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

FREE PRACTICE TEST

Updated for the 2020 online exam!



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Time—45 minutes

The following letter was written by Eugene Debs, the founder of the Socialist Party of America, on behalf of fellow labor activist Tom Mooney. In 1916, Mooney was convicted for his role in a bomb attack in San Francisco, California. While in prison for the crime of sedition, Debs wrote this letter in response to an invitation to speak on Mooney's behalf. Read the letter carefully and write a well-developed essay that analyzes the rhetorical strategies Debs uses to defend Mooney.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain the relationship between the evidence and your thesis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Brother Elmgreen:—

There is nothing in my power that I would not gladly do to free Tom Mooney. He is absolutely innocent

Line There is not a question about it. He is the victim of the
5 most infamous conspiracy in American history, and his conviction was and is a burning disgrace to our courts and a damning crime against justice.

I know Tom Mooney intimately. He is clean and true to the core of his big heart. There is not a blemish
10 upon his manhood. And that is precisely the cause of his shameless persecution by the political highbinders of the plundering plutocracy of the Pacific coast, every one of whom, if justice were done, would be keeping the lockstep in penitentiary.

15 But fouler and more treacherous and degenerate than even these are the so-called labor leaders and trade unionists in California and elsewhere who for the paltry pelf there is in it for them, are in alliance, openly or otherwise, with the profiteering pirates and the political
20 and judicial hirelings, to redden their hands and blacken their souls in the blood of a fellow unionist who is too rigidly honest to betray the working class and too courageous and conscientious to yield to threat and intimidation.

25 I shall not be able to attend the national labor congress to be held at Chicago in behalf of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, beginning on January 14, but my heart will be there, and if the labor movement of
30 the United States is true to itself and as true to Mooney and Billings as they have been to it, no effort will be spared to secure the unconditional freedom of these tried and trusted union men. The labor movement can

afford to go to any length to accomplish this end. it cannot afford to stop short of it. The labor movement
35 is itself on trial in this cause, and if it proves cowardly and craven in the presence of its supreme task it ought to perish, for it is not fit to live. If the American labor movement cannot or will not defend its bravest defenders, it brands itself with cowardice and infamy
40 and cannot escape its self-imposed ignominious fate.

But I shall believe otherwise. I shall have faith that the delegates assembled at Chicago will rise to complete the stature of union men and demand and insist upon the unconditional release of the innocent
45 victims of the California conspiracy of the silk-hatted would-be murderers, and if all entreaties are in vain and all measures fail, then as a last resort let a general strike be ordered and the industries of the nation paralyzed from end to end by an outraged working class
50 determined upon rebuking crime and securing justice.

The cowardly Governor of California, tool of the corporations that he is, will do nothing. The courts of California, debauched to the last degree, will do nothing. Therefore the working class and the common
55 people and all who sympathize with them must take this matter into their own hands and fearlessly meet the issue by stopping the wheels of industry long enough to compel the financial bandits and their mercenaries to realize that the honest workers have some rights they
60 are bound to respect.

The life of Tom Mooney and his equally innocent associates are more to us and to humanity than all the industrial profits of the ruling class.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

At this convention let the capitalists of America be
65 reminded in terms they will not misunderstand that the
working people are not forgetting that the late war, from
beginning to end, according to the capitalist themselves
who shouted it from the housetops, was waged for the
purpose of putting an end to barbarism and brutality,
70 promoting the cause of humanity and a higher
civilization, and making the world safe for democracy
and justice.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

CHANGES TO THE 2020 EXAM FORMAT

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ONLINE TESTING

The test will be conducted at home, at the same time around the world, and can be taken on any device: PC, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Students can either type their responses, or handwrite them and photograph them with their phone. Students must submit their answer response on the same device from which they retrieved the prompt, so students must think critically about which option is more efficient for them, considering the entire process—retrieving, writing, and uploading.

TEST DURATION

Students will have 45 minutes to complete the exam, plus an additional 5 minutes of uploading time. Students will need to access the online testing system 30 minutes early to get set up for the exam.

QUESTION TYPE

The exam consists only of the rhetorical analysis free-response question. We recommend that students use 15 minutes to dissect the prompt and analyze the passage, 30 minutes to write the response, and 5 minutes to upload their document.

OPEN BOOK FORMAT

The justification for the open-book and open-note format is that the exams will look very similar to a college course exam. While it could potentially cost students valuable time to look through their notes, this open-book format should be an advantage because they can print out or draw a graphic organizer that will help them analyze the passage, and they can have a thesis statement template on standby.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For the first time ever, teachers will receive copies of each student's exam response. There are two reasons for this: to identify students whose work may not be their own and to potentially use as grades. Additionally, the College Board states that cheating will be difficult, and the punishment for it will be swift, including alerting all potential colleges of a student's cheating. For additional information about the exam, visit the College Board website: <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/>

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, May 20	8:00AM Hawaii 10:00AM Alaska 11:00AM Pacific 12:00PM Mountain 1:00PM Central 2:00PM Eastern
MAKE-UP EXAM	
<i>Available with permission from your school.</i>	
Friday, June 5	6:00AM Hawaii 8:00AM Alaska 9:00AM Pacific 10:00AM Mountain 11:00AM Central 12:00PM Eastern

LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT?

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Free Resources

- Free study guides, practice tests, and live reviews on our [website](#).
- Free live review sessions on [Instagram](#).
- Free video lessons on our [YouTube](#) channel.

AP[®] Student Support

- Exclusive live review sessions.
- Personalized feedback on 3 redesigned practice tests.
- Available in **10 subjects**.

