FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York
REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

RATING GUIDE

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's website during the rating period. Check this website at https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations and select the link "Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and several times throughout the Regents Examination period.

The following procedures are to be used for rating papers in the Regents Examination in English Language Arts. More detailed directions for the organization of the rating process and procedures for rating the examination are included in the *Directions for Scoring Regents Examinations*.

Mechanics of Rating

Scoring the Multiple-Choice Questions

For this exam all schools must use uniform scannable answer sheets provided by the regional scanning center or large-city scanning center. **If the student's responses for the multiple-choice questions are being hand scored prior to being scanned, the scorer must be careful not to make any marks on the answer sheet except to record the scores in the designated score boxes. Marks elsewhere on the answer sheet will interfere with the accuracy of the scanning.**

Before scannable answer sheets are machine scored, several samples must be both machine and manually scored to ensure the accuracy of the machine-scoring process. All discrepancies must be resolved before student answer sheets are machine scored. When machine scoring is completed, a sample of the scored answer sheets must be scored manually to verify the accuracy of the machine-scoring process.

Rating of Essay and Response Questions

(1) In training raters to score student essays and responses for each part of the examination, follow the procedures outlined below:

Introduction to the Tasks
- Raters read the task and summarize it.
- Raters read the passages or passage and plan a response to the task.
- Raters share response plans and summarize expectations for student responses.

Introduction to the Rubric and Anchor Papers
- Trainer reviews rubric with reference to the task.
- Trainer reviews procedures for assigning holistic scores (i.e., by matching evidence from the response to the language of the rubric and by weighing all qualities equally).
- Trainer leads review of each anchor paper and commentary. (*Note*: anchor papers are ordered from high to low within each score level.)

Practice Scoring Individually
- Raters score a set of five practice papers individually. Raters should score the five papers independently without looking at the scores provided after the five papers.
- Trainer records scores and leads discussion until raters feel comfortable enough to move on to actual scoring. (Practice papers for Parts 2 and 3 contain score and commentary.)

(2) When actual rating begins, each rater should record his or her individual rating for a student's essay and response on the rating sheets provided in the *Directions for Scoring Regents Examinations*, *not* directly on the student's essay or response or answer sheet. Do *not* correct the student's work by making insertions or changes of any kind.

(3) Both the 6-credit essay and the 4-credit response must be rated by at least two raters; a third rater will be necessary to resolve scores that differ by more than one point. **Teachers may *not* score their own students' answer papers**. The scoring coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the movement of papers, calculating a final score for each student's essay or response, and recording that information on the student's answer paper.

Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Exam after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final exam score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

New York State Regents Examination in English Language Arts
Part 2
Writing From Sources: Argument

Criteria	6 Essays exhibit	5 Essays exhibit	4 Essays exhibit	3 Essays exhibit	2 Essays exhibit	1 Essays exhibit
Content and Analysis: the extent to which the essay conveys complex ideas by: • introducing a claim • analyzing the sources and topic • distinguishing the claim from alternate or opposing claims	• sophisticated claim • insightful source and topic analysis • insightful evaluation of a counterclaim	• thorough claim • thorough source and topic analysis • thorough evaluation of a counterclaim	• specific claim • appropriate source and topic analysis • appropriate evaluation of a counterclaim	• surface-level claim • emerging source and topic analysis • insufficient evaluation of a counterclaim	• limited claim • unclear or confused source and topic analysis • confused or no counterclaim	• unrelated or no claim • no source and/or topic analysis
Command of Evidence: the extent to which the essay supports analysis by: • incorporating relevant evidence from sources • avoiding plagiarism when citing the texts	• sophisticated support using a wide range of strategically chosen, relevant evidence • consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format(s)	• thorough and accurate support using effective and relevant evidence • consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format(s)	• sufficient and adequate support using relevant evidence • consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format(s)	• basic support using relevant and/or generalized evidence • partial avoidance of plagiarism with emerging citation format(s)	• insufficient support using limited, inaccurate, or irrelevant evidence • insufficient avoidance of plagiarism	• provides no evidence • no use of citations
Coherence, Organization, and Style: the extent to which the essay addresses the claim as a cohesive, unified whole by: • maintaining focus on task • organizing ideas • optimizing language style	• strategic focus on task • strategic organization of ideas • sophisticated language and sentence structure	• clear and appropriate focus on task • thoughtful organization of ideas • precise language and sentence structure	• acceptable focus on task • logical organization of ideas • appropriate language and sentence structure	• emerging focus on task • emerging organization of ideas • basic language and sentence structure	• lack appropriate focus on task, but suggest organization of ideas **-or-** • suggest a focus on task, but lack organization of ideas • imprecise language	• little to no focus on task • little to no organization of ideas • incoherent language **-or-** • minimal writing, making assessment unreliable
Control of Conventions: the extent to which the essay establishes a framework for clear communication by: • displaying control of 9–12 band grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling • maintaining control relative to language characteristics	• exceptional control • virtually no errors when using sophisticated language	• considerable control • errors that do not hinder comprehension, even when using sophisticated language	• partial control • errors that do not hinder comprehension	• emerging control • errors that hinder comprehension	• lack of control • errors that make comprehension difficult	• significant lack of control • errors that severely interfere with comprehension **-or-** • minimal writing, making assessment unreliable

- An essay that uses information from fewer than 3 sources can be scored no higher than a 3.
- An essay that is entirely unrelated to the topic and/or makes no reference to the sources or task can be scored no higher than a 1.
- An essay that is predominantly a verbatim copy from the task or sources with negligible student writing must be scored a 0.
- An essay that is indecipherable, entirely incoherent, unrecognizable as English, or blank must be scored a 0.

→Homo Sapiens, ~~a genus~~ a species of hominid originating in Southern Africa a few hundred thousand years ago, has, for the past 20,000 years or so, proliferated across the globe, spreading to all seven continents and largely changing the ecosystem of wherever its members went. From the definition of an invasive species, which is an organism that spreads rapidly in a non-native environment and causes havoc in said environment, one may define Homo Sapiens to be a kind of invasive species. However, are these species necessarily bad? Utilizing the information in Documents 1, 2, 3, and 4, one will be forced to come to the conclusion that it is unnecessary to control invasive populations due to the difficulty of doing so, potential of invasive organisms to help the environment, and present fearmongering regarding these organisms.

~~In Document 2 the~~ Firstly, the cost of erasing these organisms is, oftentimes, not worth the ~~risk of~~ limited reward of removing the organism. Take the list of various methods of eradication mentioned in Document 2, such as the use of biological weapons of disease, chemical sprays, and even the introduction of another invasive species (Source 2, lines 36-44). This list does not sound minimally invasive [redacted] by any means. It reads more like a list of war crimes than simply removal of pests. The potential damage to the environment from these methods are usually more than that of the original problem, especially in the case of introducing another species. At best, scientists are swapping out one invader with another, at worst the new invader doesn't control the original, and the ecosystem now has compounded problems. → onto next page

Another such example of this risky gamble is mentioned briefly in ~~Document~~ Source 3, where the author speaks of the introduction of a virus to control rabbit populations practically eradicating a large blue butterfly species (Source 3, lines 30-31). In this case, the assumed result of introducing a new species to combat an invasive one plays out to full negative effect. Now the British ecosystem ~~no~~ has to deal with the consequences of the excess rabbit population and the loss of the butterfly, which could have been avoided had officials let the rabbits be. Ultimately, the risks of removing an invasive species once imbedded in the local ecosystem is equal to that of removing a tumor from a patient's aorta.

Not only is it potentially harmful to remove invasive species due to the adverse affects of the methods, but also because some invasive species may have beneficial affects in the environment. This is exemplified wonderfully in ~~the~~ Source 1 in the opening anecdote about the Asian Honeysuckle. The plant, which was assumed to be harmful, actually turned out to be to the benefit of the environment since it attracted native birds to come eat the native fruits and thereby spread the seeds of native plants (Source 1, lines 5-12). In this case, the honeysuckle actually aids the native species in reproduction, vitalizing the environment in a novel manner. A similar example can be found within Source 4, which outlines that plant populations double in biological diversity following an invasion of an Oceanic island (Source 4, lines 41-43). In this instance, again the potential for beneficial environmental affects from the introduction of an invasive species is made strikingly obvious. Assuming that species diversity and

radiation are positive indicators in determing the state of an ecosystem, the ecosystem was improved, not hindered, on these oceanic islands. It is strikingly clear that, although not always, invasive species do have the potential to benefit an environment.

Finally, the dangers of invasive species are often over emphasized. Even the name "invasive" seems hostile. Some may argue that this is simply a reflection of the nature of these organisms, however, this is an unfounded assertion. In Source 3, the author introduces the concept of "invasion" biology by stating organisms "invade" geographical regions while simultaneously stating that most "invasions" fail (Source 3, lines 1-10). If these invasive species where as much of a massive problem as the author makes ~~it~~ them out to be, then it would be assumed that most invasions at least succeed. If anything, it seems these events happen via chance, and a chance of low probability at that. In addition, the author of Source 4 points out that biologists tend to characterize these organisms as if they are intentionally staging an offensive (Source 4, lines 1-19). These organisms obviously are not intentionally doing this, spreading themselves across the globe, we did this. Most would argue others shouldn't pay for the mistakes of others, so morally we shouldn't really be killing these organisms because we messed up. Essentially the severity of the issue is largely exaggerated by scientists to justify the amoral eradication of innocent living beings.

In summary, the eradication of invasive species is a fear-mongered solution ~~tha~~ to an issue that really isn't that much of an issue since the organisms in question ~~aren't that harmful~~ are oftentimes beneficial to the environment and the cost of

removal is too great. Eradicating these organisms may be the greatest hypocrisy ever known, as we, ourselves, Homo Sapiens, are ourselves invasive species. What would give us the right to do this to a fellow invader? Most upon reviewing the evidence that nothing would give us this right.

Anchor Level 6–A

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 6.

Note: This essay achieves sophistication and insight by applying the topic to the human condition, while skillfully using mostly paraphrased evidence.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **sophisticated claim:** *...it is unnecessary to control invasive populations due to the difficulty of doing so, potential of invasive organisms to help the environment, and present fear-mongering regarding these organisms* • **insightful source and topic analysis:** *At best, scientists are swapping out one invader with another, at worst the new invader doesn't control the original, and the ecosystem now has compounded problems* / *Now the British ecosystem has to deal with the consequences of the excess rabbit population and the loss of the butterfly, which could have been avoided had officials let the rabbits be* • **insightful evaluation of a counterclaim:** *Even the name "invasive" seems hostile. Some may argue that this is simply a reflection of the nature of these organisms; however, this is an unfounded assertion* / *If these invasive species where as much of a massive problem as the author makes them out to be, then it would be assumed that most invasions at least succeed. If anything, it seems these events happen via chance, and a chance of low probability at that*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **sophisticated support using a wide range of strategically chosen, relevant evidence:** *...the author speaks of the introduction of a virus to control rabbit populations practically eradicating a large blue butterfly species* / *The plant, which was assumed to be harmful, actually turned out to be to the benefit of the environment since it attracted native birds to come eat the native fruits and thereby spread the seeds of native plants* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism:** *(Source 2, lines 36–44)* / *(Source 4, lines 1–19)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **strategic focus on task:** throughout • **strategic organization of ideas:** With an introduction that defines invasive species and presents a negative claim, followed by two body paragraphs that focus on *the cost of removing* invasive species based on the *potential damage* removal methods may cause to the environment, a third body paragraph that discusses *beneficial affects in the environment*, a fourth that addresses the counterclaim with a fully exemplified rebuttal and is followed by a summative conclusion • **sophisticated language and sentence structure:** *Homo Sapiens, a species of hominid originating in Southern Africa a few hundred thousand years ago, has, for the past 20,000 years or so, proliferated across the globe, spreading to all seven continents and largely changing the ecosystem of wherever its members went* / *In addition ... biologists tend to characterize these organisms as if they are intentionally staging an offensive* with occasional lapses into conversational language
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **exceptional control:** throughout • **virtually no errors when using sophisticated language**

The debate about invasive species has been quite decisive within the scientific community. Source 1 (lines 8, 14-15) demonstrates that idea through the perspective of Jason Gleditsch. Gleditsch had done research into potential benefits to invasive species, but was met with a lot of pushback. There seem to be two sides of the debate. The first side is that invasive species have negative impacts on the world, while the other side might say they actually hold benefits. Either way, the debate begs the question if it is necessary to control invasive species. According to the points referenced in the sources, it is necessary to control invasive species due to negative side effects on the environment, people, and while some may argue some invasive species are good, the beneficial impacts cannot be accessed without more research.

Often, the first point that jumps to mind when debating invasive species are the impacts on the environment. Source 2 provides the details to a couple of species invasions, one of which was the Burmese Python invasion of the everglades. Source 2 states that many people released their pet pythons, however, because they don't have many natural predators in the Everglades, they have destroyed the ecosystem. (lines 13-16) Source 2 goes on to illustrate that the Python eat many local species, disturbing the balance (line 16). The Burmese Python invasion of the Everglades goes to show just how devastating one invasive species can be to an ecosystem. Imagine stricter policies were in place to

stop people from releasing their pythons or if [redacted] less people had access to them. In that case, the invasion would have been much less likely to occur and the ecosystem would still be in balance. Source 2 brings up another example of invasive species in cats that were brought to South Africa. Specifically, cats were imported to an island called "Marion Island" as a control for the mice. However, the [redacted] five cats that had been brought over, rose to a population of about 3,400 in 28 years. This rise in cat population endangered local bird species, [redacted] creating a disaster (Source 2, lines 9-12). Stricter control over invasive species would decrease the likelihood of events like those [redacted] detailed in source 2 from happening. Without control, the environment is in danger from invasive species.

Though the environment is important, it is also important to consider the impacts on people. Source 3 introduces the idea of [redacted] "human endeavors" like forestry and fisheries being damaged (Source 3, line 17). If people lose jobs [redacted] or can not make enough money to survive because of an invasive species, then something needs to be done. Control of invasive species would help prevent that from happening. Another concern Source 3 addresses is the spread of pathogens. Whether it be invasive pathogens introduced or invasive species that carry them, people are harmed (Source 3, lines 18-19). Source 3 also states that biological invasions estimated to cost the United States, "over $100 billion annually" [redacted] (Source 3, line 23). Source 3 clearly demonstrates that

invasive species do more than harm the environment, as they also allow for the spread of pathogens, potentially killing people, and harm the economy, reducing jobs. Invasive species control helps stop these issues from becoming widespread, illustrating the necessity for it.

On the other hand, some might claim that invasive species can actually benefit the environment. Source 1 gives readers insight to a researcher named Jason Gleditsch. Gleditsch did research into an invasive honeysuckle plant. He found that the plant actual positively effected its surroundings, increasing the population of native species (Source 1, lines 8-12). Source 1 also provides a story about ladybugs. It states, "ladybugs helped devour pests afflicting native trees on the island of St. Helena" (Source 1, lines 46-47). Source one states that this saved the species from extinction showing invasive species can help the environment. Keeping these good examples of invasive species in mind, it now becomes less clear on whether or not to control invasive species. However, according to Source 3, introducing species has an unpredictable outcome of events (lines 24-26). Source 3 continues by stating multiple examples where the effects of an invasive species could not be predicted. One specific example was the British introduction of the mongoose to manage the rabbit population. The introduction of the mongoose ultimately led to the extinction of the large blue butterfly (Source 3, lines 30-31). Source 3 demonstrates the greatest issue with not controlling invasive species, nature is too unpredictable. While some species might end up having positive effects, it is virtually impossible to know

beforehand. Nature is a powerful force, and source 3 shows that if people aren't careful, entire species could be eradicated and ecosystems destroyed. Hence, control of invasive species is necessary because even scientists cannot predict what will happen, meaning the risks outweigh the potential benefits.

Overall, both sides of the invasive species debate hold merit. However, considering the arguments presented in each source, it is just too risky to not control invasive species because of the impacts they have on the environment people, and the unknown possibilities. While yes, it is important to keep in mind potential benefits of invasive species, it is simply irresponsible to let them go around uncontrolled. Considering this, source 3 does provide a solution, which is more research. If more research is done such that scientists are able to predict outcomes of implementing invasive species, then it would be possible to get the benefits of mixing and matching species without the drawbacks (lives 321-992). Until that time, it is of utmost importance to enforce strict control over invasive species.

Anchor Level 6–B

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 6.

Note: The essay demonstrates an insightful analysis of both sides of the issue and provides a thoroughly exemplified argument for control of invasive species, despite weaker control of conventions and handwriting that can be challenging to read.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **sophisticated claim:** *...it is necessary to control invasive species due to negative side effects on the environment, people and ... the beneficial impacts cannot be accessed without more research* • **insightful source and topic analysis:** *Imagine stricter policies were in place to stop people from releasing their pythons or if less people had acess to them. In that case, the invasion would have been much less likely to occur and the ecosystem would still be in balance ... without control, the environment is in danger / Source 3 clearly demonstrates that invasive species do more than harm the environment, as they also allow for the spread of pathogens, potentially killing people, and harm the economy, reducing jobs. Invasive species control helps stop these issues from becoming widespread, illustrating the necessity for it* • **insightful evaluation of a counterclaim:** *On the other hand, some might claim that invasive species can actually benefit the environment ... an invasive honey suckle plant ... positively effected its surroundings, increasing the population of native species / the greatest issue with not controlling invasive species, nature is too unpredictable ... if people aren't careful, entire species could be eradicated and ecosystems destroyed*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **sophisticated support using a wide range of strategically chosen, relevant evidence:** *Source 2 states that many people released their pet pythons, however, because they don't have many natural predators in the Everglades, they have destroyed the ecosystem / Whether it be invasive pathogens introduced or invasive species that carry them, people are harmed ... Source 3 also states that biological invasions estimated to cost the United States, "over $100 billion anually"* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation formats:** *Source 2 states ... (lines 13–16) / (Source 3, line 17)*

(Continued on the next page)

Anchor Level 6–B (cont.)

Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **strategic focus on task:** throughout • **strategic organization of ideas:** With an introductory paragraph that gives an overview of the question of controlling invasive species by referencing both sides and then stating a claim in favor of control, followed by two paragraphs of support that focus on *the impacts on the environment*, the importance of the impacts on *"human endeavors"* and the *spread of pathogens*, and a paragraph refuting a counterclaim *because even scientists can not predict what will happen, meaning the risks outweigh the potential benefits*. The essay concludes with a summation of the issues and reasons for the need for control with a call for *more research*. • **sophisticated language and sentence structure:** *Either way, the debate begs the question if it is necessary to control invasive species* / *The introduction of the virus ultimately led to the extinction of the large blue butterfly* / *Overall, both sides of the invasive species debate hold merit … it is just too risky to not control invasive species because of the impacts they have on the environment, people, and the unknown possibilities*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **considerable control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension, even when using sophisticated language**

Scientists and ecologists have often labeled invasive species — an alien species that rapidly multiplies in and disrupts an ecosystem - as completely harmful and disruptive to the ecosystem they invade. Although some of these species do harm to the environments they move to, there is a bias in data collection focusing purely on the harmful aspects. Invasive species can provide some benifits to their new ecosystem such as controling the population of a harmful species, or even profit native species as well. Because of this it is not necessary to control native species.

Throughout the course of research on the topic, scientists have focused on only the harmful effects of invasive species. "For decades, invasion biologists have focused their attention on negative impacts and as a result have accumulated a lot of data pointing in that direction (Source 1, lines 54-56) This shows how misleading the information from invasion biologists could be for the general public. Because there is an immense focus on the negative effects of invasive species some species positive effects may be overshadowed by these negative effects. The common view that invasive species are all bad is inherently flawed, and the positive effects should be looked into.

Speaking of positive effects sometimes other species can be used to control harmful invasive species." In Australia, prickly pear cactus... was growing out of control... The government brought in cactus moth caterpillars to eat the cactuses" (Source 2, lines 36-39) This is a succesful example of an invasive species being controled by an "outside" species. These other species can sometimes be benificial to the ecosystem. The benifits they offer, in this case stopping the

cactus from destroying the land where livestock is raised, shouldn't be ignored because it could be one of the answers to the invasive species problem.

Apart from simply mitigating damage caused by other species, invasive species can also provide an added advantage to the ecosystem they arrive in. "When Dov Sax of Brown University conducted a global study of species invasions on oceanic islands, he found that while the number of birds did sometimes go down after invasions, plant biodiversity usually rose." (Source 4, lines 40-42). This shows how invasive species should be viewed as an asset and discussed more in this light to balance out the negative studies that are more common.

Arguably not all non-native species are a positive introduction to an environment. For example Nutria, a rodent native to South America were brought to North America, primarily to be raised for their fur. When this endeavor failed and they were released into the wild, they became a "major pest in the Gulf Coast and Chesapeake Bay regions of the United States." (Source 2, lines 26-29). They destroyed the habitat by consuming wetland grasses needed as food, nesting sites and shelter for other species (Source 2, lines 31-32). Obviously control of the Nutria was needed in this case, but the Nutria became a problem because of human negligence and greed, not because of introducing them to control another species or the environment. Also, the introduction of Nutria is an extreme example of the damage caused by an invasive species. Not all species causes damage to "the area's food web and habitat" (Source 2, line 32) like the Nutria and "the relentless focus on the damage [of invasive species] risks missing equally important data, and could lead to management decisions

that do more harm than good" (Source 1, lines 23-25). Not all species are harmful they can provide direct and indirect benifits to the envirnment. However, data indicating this has been overlooked for decades in favor of negative stories. The bias associated with how scientists evaluate damage is evident and affects getting the full picture of invasive species and the help they can provide to ecosystems.

Anchor Level 5–A

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 5.

Note: This essay achieves a holistic score of a 5, although evaluation of a counterclaim is insightful.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough claim:** *Invasive species can provide some benifits to their new ecosystem such as controling the population of a harmful species, or even profit native species as well. Because of this it is not necessary to control native species* • **thorough source and topic analysis:** *This shows how misleading the information from invasion biologists could be for the general public. Because there is an immense focus on the negative effects of invasive species some species positive effects may be overshadowed by these negative effects* / *These other species can sometimes be benificul to the ecosystem. The benifits they offer, in this case stopping the cactus from destroying the land where livestock is raised, shouldn't be ignored because it could be one of the answers to the invasive species problem* • **insightful evaluation of a counterclaim:** *Obviously control of the Nutria was needed in this case, but the Nutria became a problem because of human negligence and greed, not because of introducing them to control another species or the envirnment. Also, the introduction of Nutria is an extreme example of the damage caused by an invasive species* / *Not all species are harmful they can provide direct and indirect benifits to the envirnment*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough and accurate support using effective and relevant evidence:** *"For decades, invasion biologists have focused their attention on negative impacts and as a result have accumulated a lot of data pointing in that direction* / *they became a "major pest in the Gulf Coast and Chesapeake Bay regions of the United States."* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format:** *(Source 1, lines 54–56)* / *(Source 2, lines 26–29)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **clear and appropriate focus on task:** throughout • **thoughtful organization of ideas:** With an introductory paragraph that defines invasive species, mentions the opposing side, and states the claim, followed by three paragraphs that further expound upon the benefits invasive species can provide to an ecosystem. A fifth paragraph addresses and refutes the counterclaim that *not all non-native species are a positive introduction to an environment*, followed by a conclusion that restates the idea of bias in *how scientists evaluate damage* to the environment which *affects getting the full picture of invasive species* • **sophisticated language and sentence structure:** *Throughout the course of research on the topic* / *The common view that invasive species are all bad is inherently flawed* / *Apart from simply mitigating damage caused by other species, invasive species can also provide an added advantage to the ecosystem they arrive in*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **considerable control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension, even when using sophisticated language**

Imagine aliens came to earth and began to eat all our food until there was nothing left for us. That is how invasive species thrive, by intruding in an environment that is not theirs and taking over leaving native species to decline in numbers. The invasive species benefit at the native species' expense. Although some may argue that scientists ~~that~~ in this field of study are bias, this does not make the information regarding the dangers of invasive species false. Controlling invasive species is ~~important because~~ necessary because ~~an increase in invasive species lead to a decrease in population~~ invasive species that ~~are~~ prey on native species decreases their population ~~native species aren't left with enough food because the invaders eat their food~~ and the prevention is costly, and invaders destroy habitats.

~~For example~~
~~An example from the text is~~
Invasive species should be controlled because the invaders prey on native species and their population declines. This can lead to endangerment or even extinction of a native species. For example, ~~Daniel Simberloff and Marcel Rejmanek state, Aster Ellgeia explains, "Insects like the emerald ash borer and fungi like chestnut blight have devastated~~ Kim Rutledge states, "By 1977, about 3,400 cats were living on the island, endangering the local bird population (Source 2, lines 11-12). The text exemplifys that an increase of an ~~predator~~ invasive species that is

a predator to the native population changes how diverse the particular environment is, in this case and Island, and how this affects the native population in a very negative way.

Another example that supports the need to control invasive species is how the effects of the not invasive species affect humans when they try to prevent it. The decrease in native population, spread of pathogens, and effects on the environment cause people to have to step in. Doing so affects the economy greatly, as stated by Daniel Simberloff and Marcel Rejmánek, "the cost of biological invasions to the economy of the United States alone is estimated at over $100 billion annually" (Source 3, lines 22-23). Not only does these invasive species affect animals other native species of plants and animals, but humans are also paying the price; quite literally speaking because of the how expensive it is to control the invasive species.

Some

However, others argue that scientists aren't looking at the full picture of the study and are only focusing on the negative effects. According to some, not all invasive species are bad but most scientists and researchers prefer to put their time into studying and preventing invasive species that cause harm. As stated by Fred Pearce, "The charge is that invasion biologists have shown systematic bias in their studies. They have started from the presumption that alien species are

bad and sought out regions topics to confirm their view" (Source 4, lines 14-16). This exemplifies the view that Scientists are bias and only assume that all invasive species are bad and seek to prove it with evidence. Although this may be true, the evidence they found the scientists have found regarding the invasive species have proved the extent of their negative effects. The ~~species~~ invaders not only prey on native populations but also decrease their population by destroying the native species' habitat as well as the plant species within that that environment As shown by Asher Elbein, "Insects like the emerald ash borer and fungi like chestnut blight have devastated American ~~forests~~" forests" (Source 1 lines 29-30). This text ~~exe~~ helps ~~e~~ explains how ~~there are many~~ destructive as well as deadly invasive species are. Despite the fact that some believe scientists are bias, this is probably because there is more evidence that goes against invasive species than supports it.

Overall, it is necessary to control invasive species because ~~the invaders that are predators~~ the invasive species the native species becomes prey for the invasive species and dramatically decreases their population, humans are being affected as well and their attempt at prevention ~~is costly~~ has a huge cost, and invasive species destroy habitats as well when introduced into a new environment. Although some could argue that the information collected is biased, ~~this~~ the

Information collected on these negative effects are still true. Invasive species affect the whole world especially after the introduction of mass transportation and more rapid transportation. This is still a problem in the world and needs to be controlled.

Anchor Level 5–B

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 5.

Note: The score of this essay is not impacted by handwriting or frequent crossing out of draft language.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough claim:** *Controlling invasive species is necessary because invasive species that prey on native species decreases their population the prevention is costly, and invaders destroy habitats* • **thorough source and topic analysis:** *The text exemplifys that an increase of an invasive species that is a predator to the native population changes how diverse the particular environment is, in this case and island, and how this affects the native population in a very negative way* / *Not only do these invasive species affect other native species of plants and animals, but humans are also paying the price; quite literally speaking because of how expensive it is to control the invasive species* • **thorough evaluation of a counterclaim:** *However, others argue that scientists aren't looking at the full picture of the study and are only focusing on the negative effects* / *Although this may be true, the evidence the scientists have found regarding invasive species have proved the extent of their negative effects. The invaders … pray on native populations … decrease their population by destroying … habitat as well as the plant species within that environment*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough and accurate support using effective and relevant evidence:** *Kim Rutledge states, "By 1977, about 3,400 cats were living on the island, endangering the local bird population"* / *"The cost of biological invasions to the economy of the United States alone is estimated at over $100 billion annually"* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format:** *As stated by Fred Pearce, … (Source 4, lines 14–16)* / *As shown by Aster Elbein, … (Source 1 lines 29–30)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **clear and appropriate focus on task:** throughout • **logical organization of ideas:** With an introductory paragraph that presents a claim with reasons for controlling invasive species, followed by two paragraphs of support that focus on the harmful effects invasive species have on both native species and humans. A fourth paragraph presents the counterclaim and refutes it, asserting that the belief in scientific bias is based on the fact that *there is more evidence that goes against invasive species than supports it*, concluding with a paragraph of summation • **precise language and sentence structure:** *That is how invasive species thrive, by intruding in an environment that is not theirs* / *This can lead to endangerment or even extinction of a native species* / *According to some, not all invasive species are bad but most scientists … prefer to put their time into studying and preventing invasive species that cause harm*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **considerable control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension, even when using sophisticated language**

Invasive species is the phrase used to define ~~some~~ a species that is not native to a certain environment. Since these organisms are not indigenous to an ecosystem, there ~~is a~~ debate concerning whether or not these species should be controlled. Invasive species should be heavily controlled, as they can grow rapidly and disrupt the ecosyst~~e~~em they are in. There is a high possibility that these invasive species can disrupt their ecosystem by ~~depressing~~ decreasing the population of the native species through the spread of diseases and competing with native species for food.

When ~~an~~ an invasive species is introduced to an area, there are many instances in which they have to compete with the native species for resources. If there is no control over ~~these~~ invasive species, there is a high possibility that the population of those invasive species will rapidly increase, giving them an advantage in their competition for resources against native species. The second text states, "Many invasive species thrive because they outcompete native species for food" (13.19). Invasive species outcompeting native species for resources (like food) will result in the population of the native species declining due to a scarcity of resources, therefore disrupting the ecosystem.

There are many invasive species that act as transmitters for certains diseases. When these invasive species are introduced to an environment, a disease is introduced with them. Source 3 states, "Other invaders are pathogens that cause human, animal, or plant diseases" (15.18-19). Introducing certain ~~diseasing~~ diseases to the native species can serve as a threat to that species. ~~It can decrease The po~~ Additionally, since invasive species can rapidly spread if it is not controlled, it can lead to a high decrease in the population of a native species as a result of them dying to this rapidly growing disease.

Although the minimal amount of control over invasive species can cause a lot of damage, there are some cases in which invasive species have positivily impacted an ecosystem. Source 1 states "aliens led to native species expanding their territory or being saved from extinction" (12.45-46). Although in some cases invasive species can benefit an environment, ~~the~~ majority of the cases in which invasive species are introduced to an environment they have a negative impact on the environment. Additionally, even if an invasive species is not harmful it is still important to control them, as their rapid growth can lead to overpopulation. And the overpopulation of a species in any environment can disrupt that environments ecosystem.

Overall, invasive species should be controlled as their rapid growth as a result of not being controlled can lead to several ~~harmful~~ negative

effects that can disrupt an ecosystem. For instance, invasive species can serve as a threat to the native species ~~to~~ of an ecosystem, and the fact that they can rapidly spread automatically puts them at an advantage in their competition against native species.

Anchor Level 5–C

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 5.

Note: The essay uses a citation style that meets the criterion of an acceptable format to avoid plagiarism.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough claim:** *Invasive species should be heavily controlled, as they can grow rapidly and disrupt the ecosystem they are in* • **thorough source and topic analysis:** *Invasive species outcompeting native species for resources (like food) will result in the population of the native species declining due to a scarcity of resources, therefore disrupting the ecosystem* / *There are many invasive species that act as transmitters for certains diseases … Introducing certain diseases to the native species can serve as a threat to that species* • **thorough evaluation of a counterclaim:** *Although the minimal amount of control over invasive species can cause a lot of damage, there are some cases in which invasive species have positivily impacted an ecosystem* / *Additionally, even if an invasive species is not harmful it is still important to control them, as their rapid growth can lead to overpopulation*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **sufficient and adequate support using relevant evidence:** *The second text states, "Many invasive species thrive because they outcompete native species for food"* / *Source 1 states "aliens led to native species expanding their territory or being saved from enxtinction"* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation formats:** *The second text states … (13. 19)* / *Source 3 states, … (15. 18–19)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **clear and appropriate focus on task:** throughout • **thoughtful organization of ideas:** With an introductory paragraph that defines the topic and presents a positive claim, followed by an initial body paragraph explaining that invasive species *compete with the native species for resources*, a second body paragraph that describes how invasive species are transmitters of disease, followed by a third body paragraph that addresses and refutes a counterclaim. The essay concludes with a summative paragraph. • **appropriate language and sentence structure:** *Invasive species is the phrase used to define a species that is not native to a certain environment* / *When these invasive species are introduced to an environment, a disease is introduced with them*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **considerable control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension**

Invasive species are species that are not native to a certain area, but were brought there somehow. It is necessary to control invasive species because they take away from the food supply of native species, destroy the habitats they invade, and are costly to the economy. Some may argue that invasive species increase biodiversity and therefor should be left alone. The text states "When Dov Sax of Brown University conducted a global study of species invasions on oceanic islands, he found that while the number of birds did sometimes go down after invasions, plant biodiversity usually rose. Typically, such islands now have twice as many plant species as before" (Source 4, lines 40-43). In reality this small benefit of invasive species does not out weigh all the harm they cause.

Invasive species outcompete native species for food. The text states, that carp that were introduced to the Missouri River "feed on plankton" (Source 2 lines 21). The text also states, "Many native fish species such as paddlefish, also feed on plankton. The feeding cycle of the paddlefish is slower than that of the carp" (Source 2, lines 22-23). As a result, the invasive carp feeds on the plankton more often, diminishing the source of food for the paddlefish. The more the carp feed, and the more they reproduce. Overtime, the population of carp will rise so much that the paddlefish will not be able to find food and will die off.

Invasive species also destroy the habitats of native species. The text Source 2 discusses the large rodents called Nutria, which are invasive to North America. The text states, "Nutria eat tall grasses and rushes. These plants are vital to the regions' marshy wetlands. They provide food, nesting sites, and shelter for many organisms" (Source 2 lines 29-31). As a result, native organisms are stripped of their food source and shelter. This greatly affects the natural ecosystem and can

impact the survival rates of native species.

Invasive species are also costly to the economy. The text states, "the cost of biological invasions to the economy of the United States alone is estimated at over $100 billion annually" (Source 3, lines 22-23). These invasions take place in areas all over the world. In order to prevent further costs to the economy, these invasive species should be put under control now.

It is necessary to control invasive species as they cause great harm by eating the food sources of native species, disturbing the habitats they invade, and costing billions of dollars to economies.

Anchor Level 4–A

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 4.

Note: This essay is holistically a Level 4, despite a stronger claim and control of conventions.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough claim:** *It is necessary to control invasive species because they take away from the food supply of native species, destroy the habitats they invade, and are costly to the economy* • **appropriate source and topic analysis:** *Overtime, the population of carp will rise so much that the paddlefish will not be able to find food and will die off* / *As a result, native organisms are stripped of their food source and shelter* • **appropriate evaluation of a counterclaim:** *Some may argue that invasive species increase biodiversity and therefore should be left alone* / *In reality, this small benefit … does not out weigh all the harm they cause*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **thorough and accurate support using effective and relevant evidence:** *"Many native fish species, such as paddlefish, also feed on plankton. The feeding cycle of the paddlefish is slower than that of the carp"* / *"the cost of biological invasions to the economy of the United States alone is estimated at over $100 billion anually"* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format:** *(Source 4, lines 40–43)* / *(Source 2, lines 22–23)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **acceptable focus on task:** throughout • **logical organization of ideas:** With an introductory paragraph that states a claim that establishes a focus on the necessity of controlling invasive species in regard to how they negatively affect the food supply and habitats of native species, as well as the economy, and addresses a counterclaim. Following are three body paragraphs of support focusing on the negative effects set forth in the introduction, and a one-sentence concluding paragraph that restates the claim and the arguments discussed • **appropriate language and sentence structure:** *Invasive species are species that are not native to a certain area, but were brought there somehow* / *This greatly affects the natural ecosystem and can impact the survival rates of native species* / *These invasions take place in areas all over the world*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **partial control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension**

While some may believe that invasive species do more help than harm to the environment, these plants and animals need to be controlled.

Invasive species can replace plants and other forms of life, as well as damaging food chains by consuming a certain species, decreasing the population of another. "Many species thrive because they outcompete native species for food." (Source 2, line 19) Many invasive species end up growing too quickly and end up thriving more than the other species that have been living in that area, which causes the native species to suffer due to a lack of food and survival needs. Some times people introduce insects as control for invasive plants, but those insects end up becoming an invasive species as well and damaging more of the ecosystem. "Sometimes, the insects also damage other plant species— they can become invasive species themselves" (Source 2, lines 41-42) In attemps to control one harmful invasive species, another species just as harmful was brought into the environment and caused more harm to other species.

Invasive species can spread extremely fast, not giving the surroundings enough time to adapt to the new life and can start suffering severely due to this rapid change. "... establish populations and invade [redacted] new habitats, spreading widely and sometimes beyond the initial point of introduction." (Source 3, lins 11-12) Invasive species can be brought in and then take over within a month of arriving in the new ecosystem, hurting the other life around it as it continues to grow and

thrive in its new environment. "Many invaders depress populations of native species, and even threaten some with extinction, by preying on them, competing with them, hybridizing them, infecting them with disease, or changing their habitat." (source 3, lines 19-21) these invaders compete with natives for their food, and sometimes bring disease that kills most of the population that lived there. These species tend to combine with some surrounding species to spread even more and to increase its population.

While invasive species are harmful to the ecosystem they reproduce in, they can have some positive effects in nature as well. "Minor changes to a new ecosystem — an alien plant attracting pollinators to nearby native plants, for example — might help individuals from a native species without boosting their population numbers." (source 1, lines 41--43). Invasive plants can help attract more species where both the creature and the plant benefit - for example, flowers and pollinators. This helps boost the ecosystem as well as other populations in the area. "The much rarer major and massive changes occurred when aliens led to native species expanding their territory or being saved from extinction" (source 1, lines 44-46). Many invasive species can give other dying species a boost, and allow them to start thriving and expanding again. This is a rare event to happen, but invasive species are able to help the environment as well, rather than doing only harm to the ecosystems.

In conclusion, many people believe that invasive species are only harmful to an environment and its

surroundings. Others find [redacted] some of them to be helpful, and give boosts to other populations as well as the environment. Regardless if they're harmful or not, invasive species need to be controlled and contained in order for ecosystems to continue normally without disturbance, and without potential harm.

Anchor Level 4–B

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 4.

Note: This essay focuses more on discussing the characteristics of invasive species than arguing the chosen claim, which is implicitly presented.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **specific claim:** *While some may believe that invasive species do more help than harm to the environment, these plants and animals need to be controlled* • **appropriate source and topic analysis:** *In attemps to control one harmful invasive species, another species just as harmful was brought into the environment and caused more harm to other species* / *Invasive species can spread extremely fast, not giving the surroundings enough time to adapt to the new life* / *Invasive plants can help attract more species where both the creature and the plant benefit* • **appropriate evaluation of a counterclaim:** *While invasive species are harmful to the ecosystem they reproduce in, they can have some positive effects in nature as well* / *This is a rare event to happen*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **sufficient and adequate support using relevant evidence:** *"Many species thrive because they outcompete native species for food."* / *"Many invaders depress populations of native species, and even threaten some with extinction, by preying on them, competing with them, hybridizing them, infecting them with disease, or changing their habitat."* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format:** *(Source 3, lines 19–21)* / *(Source 1, lines 44–46)*, although some quoted material is miscopied
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **emerging focus on task:** throughout • **logical organization of ideas:** With an introductory sentence that states the claim, followed by two body paragraphs of support that focus on how invasive species damage native species by consuming their food and taking over their habitat, and a third body paragraph that presents a counterclaim focusing on the *positive effects* of invasive species. The essay concludes with a reaffirmation of the claim by stating that *harmful or not, invasive species need to be controlled … in order for ecosystems to continue normally … and without potential harm* • **appropriate language and sentence structure:** *These invaders compete with natives for their food, and sometimes bring disease that kills most of the population that lived there* / *In conclusion, many people believe that invasive species are only harmful to an environment and its surroundings. Others find some of them to be helpful, and give boosts to other populations as well as the environment*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **partial control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension**

I do not think it is neccesary to control invasive speices. An invasive speice is defined as "an organism that is not indigenous or native, to a particular area" (source 2, lines 1-2). Even though these speices can cause harm they can also do good.

One quote that shows it is not neccesary to control invasive speices is "Minor changes to a new ecosystem - an alein plant attracting pollinators to nearby native plants for example - might help individual from a native species without boosting their population numbers" (source 1, line 41-43). This shows that while invasive speices can cause negative they can also cause lots of positive things to occur. If invasive speices a used right they could cause a bunch of good things to happen to boost ecosystems.

Another quote that shows it is not neccesary to control invasive speices is "As you read this, thousands of speices of plants, animals, fungi, and microbes have been or are being transported by humans to new locations, whether deliberately or inadvertenly" (source 3, line 1-2). This shows that no matter how much people try to control invasive speices, the invasive species are always moving around and spreading so you cant contain enough of them. If they tried to contain all of them the would be wasting money and resources because they are always moving

One reason people think we should contain invasive speices is because "invasive speices can cause great economic and enviormental harm to a new area" (source 2, line 2). Even though this is true it would be

too hard to control all invasive speices and they could also produce a good outcome. If you controlled all invasive speices you will never see the good they could do,

These quotes show why it is not neccesary to control invasive speices and that it would almost impossible to control them all. The speices might cause harm but there is also a chance they could cause good that humans never thought was possible. It is not worth the time, money, and people to control these speices because new ones will keep popping up so there is no way to control all invasive speices.

Anchor Level 4–C

Holistically, the essay meets the criteria for a Level 4.

Note: This paper achieves a 4 despite a casual opening statement and formulaic approach using text quotations followed by "this shows" statements.

Content and Analysis	**Essay exhibits:** • **specific claim:** *I do not think it is neccesary to control invasive speices … Even though these speices can cause harm they can also do good* • **emerging source analysis:** *If invasive speices a used right they could cause a bunch of good things to happen to boost ecosystems / This shows that no matter how much people try to control invasive speices, the invasive species are always moving around and spreading so you cant contain enough of them* • **appropriate evaluation of a counterclaim:** *One reason people think we should contain invasive speices is because "invasive speices can cause great economic and enviormental harm to a new area" … Even though this is true it would be too hard to control all invasive speices and they could also produce a good outcome*
Command of Evidence	**Essay exhibits:** • **sufficient and adequate support using relevant evidence:** *"Minor changes to a new ecosystem — an alein plant attracting pollinators to nearby native plants for example — might help indiviual from a native species without boosting their population numbers" / "As you read this, thousands of speices of plants, animals, fungi, and microbes have been or are being transported by humans to new locations, whether deliberately or inadvertenly"* • **consistent avoidance of plagiarism with acceptable citation format:** *(Source 2, lines 1–2) / (Source 1, line 41–43) / (Source 3, line 1–2)*
Coherence, Organization, and Style	**Essay exhibits:** • **acceptable focus on task:** throughout • **logical organization of ideas:** With an opening paragraph that introduces the claim, followed by two paragraphs that provide support using direct textual evidence to demonstrate that invasive species can *help … native species* and that controlling them would be *wasting money and resources because they are always moving*. A fourth paragraph addresses a counterclaim by repeating a former argument and is followed by a concluding summative paragraph • **basic language and sentence structure:** *This shows that while invasive speices can cause negative they can also cause lots of positive things to occur / It is not worth the time, money, and people to control these speices because new ones will keep popping up so there is no way to control all invasive speices*
Control of Conventions	**Essay exhibits:** • **partial control:** throughout • **errors that do not hinder comprehension**