

AP English Language and Composition
Question 1: Synthesis (2019)
Sample Student Responses

Sample A

[1] According to a recent report on Climate change published by the United Nations, Earth's global climate temperature is expected to rise by 1.5°C in the coming decades and the effects can potentially be catastrophic unless real intervention is taken. Thus, it is imperative that nations more thoroughly examine clean energy sources without carbon emissions, such as wind energy. Agencies looking to establish wind farms should consider the geographic location of their potential wind farm and its vicinity to resident communities, in order to avoid stirring up more controversy in society's debate on how to settle an increasingly demanding appetite for energy.

[2] Primarily, agencies should consider the geographic location of a potential wind farm before actually establishing it. Wind farms occupy hundreds of acres of space and as Joshua Winchell's photograph illustrates, often require a large-scale, uniform, and isolated terrain (Source A). This is crucial for agencies to consider because building a wind farm in a location that does not meet these demands could inhibit the full capacity of energy output and require even more energy input to sustain, reducing the net benefits that the wind farm can have. Without a proper location, agencies building large-scale wind farms become more open and vulnerable to criticism which can stifle the overall progression of clean energy resources. Furthermore, agencies must take into account how productive their turbines will be. "Since wind speeds fluctuate" they can't "always run at 100 percent power" (Source B). Julia Layton goes on to mention that turbines can be "hazardous to birds and bats, and in hard-packed desert areas there is a risk of land erosion" (Source B). Factors such as average wind speeds and the local fauna must be considered so that potential wind farms are not inflicting harm on their environment. After all, what is the point in trying to save the planet if the process inflicts too much harm? Thus, with proper consideration to the terrain, climate, and local species in the overall geographic location, wind farms can be established in appropriate location without causing much harm or controversy.

[3] Secondly, agencies must consider any potential wind farm's vicinity to resident communities and those effects before establishing any large scale farms. While wind farms may not interfering with the Earth's climate, they certainly interfere with human sleep patterns. Nate Seltnerich of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences points out how "sleep interference gets worse the nearer residents are to turbines" which is detrimental because "when we lose a night's sleep, we become dysfunctional" (Seltnerich). If wind farms are built too close to resident communities, sleep within these communities becomes impaired. The more inconvenient this energy source is, the more controversy there is surrounding it, ultimately leaving people less accepting of this clean energy source. However, local resident concerns for wind turbines extends to their style as well. Troy A. Rule emphasized the "territorial views for local residents who may have grown attached to an area's existing natural backdrop" (Source E). This concern also extends to light pollution and "turbine safety lighting often required under federal aviation laws flashes across an otherwise pristine evening sky" (Source E). These residents concerns are crucial for agencies to address since the expansion of wind energy will be discouraged if it upsets the communities surrounding it. Like the harsh, glaring, white design of the wind turbines themselves, agencies must find a way to control their image by being selective in the places where farms are established. Overall, the vicinity to and effect of wind turbines on resident communities

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must be considered so that agencies can place their beneficial, clean, and safe turbines in places where they will be appreciated.

[4] In the ongoing, controversial debate surrounding wind farms, agencies looking to establish these farms should consider their geographic location and vicinity to and effect on resident communities. While there are many problems associated with wind energy, ultimately it is a legitimate and possible solution to one of the biggest climate catastrophies facing planet Earth.