

**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Question 1: Synthesis**  
**Scoring Commentaries on 2020 Rubrics**  
**(Applied to 2019 Student Responses)**

**Sample A**

**6/6 Points (A1 – B4 – C1)**

**Row A: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row A because it presents a clear thesis on the factors that should be considered with wind farms and then identifies those factors: “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.”

**Row B: 4/4**

The response earned four points for Row B because it includes evidence from at least three sources that is clearly related to a line of reasoning. Each body paragraph supports a line of reasoning that is explicitly stated in the conclusion: “While there are many problems associated with wind energy, ultimately it is a legitimate and possible solution to one of the biggest climate catastrophes facing planet Earth.” Evidence is carefully and thoughtfully integrated throughout the response and commentary exists cohesively between source citation. The supporting argument in paragraph two focuses on considering geographical locations of wind farms to ensure they are appropriate. The response draws on information from Sources A and B to argue that if the terrain is not ideal, wind energy won’t reach its potential. The commentary is insightful and focused as it explicitly points out that without such considerations “agencies building large-scale wind farms become more open and vulnerable to criticism which can stifle the overall progression of clean energy resources.” The response also acknowledges the need to consider the impact wind farms have on local animals implying that it is important to identify an “appropriate location” for this type of endeavor. The writer’s voice and ideas are not supplanted by source materials. The commentary connects to the response’s argument that public image and perception is an important factor to consider, such as in paragraph three: “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.”

**Row C: 1/1**

The response earned a point for Row C because it demonstrates sophistication of thought in several different areas. First, the response explores the complexities across the sources and puts them into conversation with one another. An example of this conversation exists in the third body paragraph, when the response cites Source C to argue that agencies must consider “impaired” sleep within communities close to wind turbines. The response then turns to Source E to argue that sleep is not the only consideration but that, “local residents concerns for wind turbines extends to their style as well.” This extension of ideas suggests an understanding that source can build upon one another to craft a more meaningful argument. Finally, the response employs a style that is persuasive throughout: “After all, what is the point in trying to save the planet if the process inflicts too much harm?”