

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Post Writing Assessments

#### Passage

Read the passage about civilian space travel. As you read the passage, think about the advantages and disadvantages of civilian space travel. Then use the passage to help you write a well-organized multiparagraph composition.

#### Civilians in Space

Many people have looked to the stars and wondered what it would be like to take a trip into outer space. Ever since the space program began, traveling beyond Earth has been a privilege for a select few, namely, astronauts. The rest of us have had to imagine what it would be like, but that may soon change.

Those who favor expanding space exploration feel that it is time to go beyond the government-funded National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program and to create opportunities for individuals and businesses to explore outer space. Imagine privately financed research outposts in space, missions to Mars, and mining operations on the Moon. The space frontier could indeed be the next gold rush!

Imagine what it would be like to travel in space. Those who have been lucky enough to visit space have all called it an amazing experience. The view of Earth and the stars must be spectacular, and the experience of living in "zero gravity" would be fascinating. The first American woman to visit space, Sally Ride, said that it was the greatest fun of her life. Imagine the thrill of booking a flight for a weekend stay (or longer) at a space hotel. It turns out that a space hotel would be much easier to design and build than the International Space Station; early estimates of the cost to build the hotels indicate that they would be less expensive if the orbiting hotels were built to accommodate large numbers of space travelers.

The space hotel and the other projects businesses might think up would allow people to see what is happening in space with their own eyes. That may lead to more support of NASA and its space research and greater appreciation of the funding that the space program now receives.

Those who oppose expanding space exploration argue that the costs are overwhelming and unrealistic. They point to the billions of dollars that would have to be raised through consumers or corporate sponsorship. In addition, civilian space travel is potentially dangerous, and there are many unknown risks involved. Who would determine the safety of commercial orbiting vehicles, and how would they be insured? Issues like this require time for discussion among groups from many different businesses. Companies that specialize in manufacturing, travel, marketing, insurance, law, and finance would all have to be involved.

Others believe there are simply too many unanswered questions to put civilians in space any time soon. There are also those who question investing in space exploration when there are widespread problems like poverty and disease that need to be addressed on Earth. For these people, commercial space travel will remain science fiction, at least for many years to come.

## Directions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Topic

**Write a multiparagraph composition for your teacher that states your opinion about whether you are for or against civilian space travel and why. Clearly present your position and use details from the passage to help you persuade your teacher of your opinion.**

**As you write, follow the suggestions below.**

- Be sure your composition has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Use details from the passage and include enough information so your teacher will understand your response.
- Be sure to write clearly and to check your composition for correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Construct Measured	Score Point 4	Score Point 3	Score point 2	Score point 1	Score Point 0
<b>Reading Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details</b>	The student response demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially by providing an accurate analysis and supporting the analysis with effective and convincing textual evidence	The student response demonstrates comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and /or inferentially by providing a mostly accurate analysis and supporting the analysis with adequate textual evidence.	The student response demonstrates basic comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and /or inferentially by providing a generally accurate analysis and supporting the analysis with basic textual evidence.	The student response demonstrates limited comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and /or inferentially by providing a minimally accurate analysis and supporting the analysis with limited textual evidence	The student response demonstrates limited comprehension of ideas
<b>Writing Written Expression</b>	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Addresses the prompt and provides effective and comprehensive development of the claim or topic that is consistently appropriate to the task by using clear and convincing reasoning supported by relevant textual evidence;</li> <li>*demonstrates purposeful coherence, clarity, and cohesion, making it easy to follow the writer's progression of ideas.</li> </ul> <p>* establishes and maintains an effective style, attending to norms and conventions of the discipline.</p>	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Addresses the prompt and provides mostly effective development of the claim or topic that is mostly appropriate to the task by using clear reasoning supported by relevant textual evidence;</li> <li>*demonstrates coherence, clarity, and cohesion, making it fairly easy to follow the writer's progression of ideas.</li> </ul> <p>* establishes and maintains a mostly effective style, while attending to norms and conventions of the discipline.</p>	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Addresses the prompt and provides some development of the claim or topic that is somewhat appropriate to the task by using some reasoning and text based evidence;</li> <li>*demonstrates some coherence, clarity, and cohesion, making the writer's progression of ideas usually discernible but not obvious;</li> </ul> <p>* has a style that is somewhat effective, generally attending to norms and conventions of the discipline.</p>	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Addresses the prompt and develops the claim or topic and provides minimal development that is limited in its appropriateness to the task by using limited reasoning and text based evidence;</li> <li>*is a developed text based response with little or no awareness of the prompt;</li> <li>*demonstrates limited coherence, clarity, and cohesion, making the writer's progression of ideas somewhat unclear;</li> <li>*limited effectiveness.</li> </ul>	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*is underdeveloped and /or inappropriate to the task;</li> <li>*lacks coherence, clarity, and cohesion.</li> <li>*has an inappropriate style, with little to no awareness of the norms of the discipline.</li> </ul>
<b>Writing Knowledge of Language and Conventions</b>		The student response to the prompt demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be few minor errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage but the meaning is clear.	The student response to the prompt demonstrates some command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that occasionally impede understanding but the meaning is generally clear.	The student response to the prompt demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that often impede understanding.	The student response to the prompt demonstrates no command of the conventions of standard English. Frequent and varied errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage impede understanding.

Total (12 Points)