

# 2021 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

## Grade 10 English Language Arts

### Question 22: Essay

**Reporting Categories:** Language and Writing

**Standard:** L.PK-12.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**Standard:** L.PK-12.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

**Standard:** L.PK-12.3 - Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

**Standard:** W.PK-12.2 - Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**Standard:** W.PK-12.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**Item Description:** Write an essay comparing and contrasting the emotions of an individual in one passage with the emotions of an individual in a second passage; use information from both passages to develop the essay.

[View item in MCAS Digital Item Library](#)

### Essay Prompt

---

For this question, you will write an essay based on the passage(s). Your writing should:

- Present and develop a central idea/thesis.
- Provide evidence and/or details from the passage(s).
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on “Pressure Dive” and *Carrying the Fire*, write an essay comparing and contrasting Cameron’s and Collins’s emotions as they are preparing for their expeditions. Be sure to use information from **both** passages to develop your essay.

---

*Continue to the following page to see the scoring guides for this question. Sample student responses begin on page 3. The annotations that appear above each sample response describe elements of the response that contributed to its score for Idea Development and Standard English Conventions.*

### Scoring Guide for Idea Development

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
<a href="#">5A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea/thesis is insightful and fully developed</li> <li>Skillful selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>Skillful and/or subtle organization</li> <li>Rich expression of ideas</li> <li>Full awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>
<a href="#">5B</a>	
<a href="#">4</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea/thesis is clear and well-developed</li> <li>Effective selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>Effective organization</li> <li>Clear expression of ideas</li> <li>Full awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>
<a href="#">3</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea/thesis is general and moderately developed</li> <li>Appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>Moderate organization</li> <li>Adequate expression of ideas</li> <li>Sufficient awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea/thesis may be present and is somewhat developed</li> <li>Limited selection and explanation of evidence and/or details</li> <li>Limited organization</li> <li>Basic expression of ideas</li> <li>Partial awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea/thesis is not developed</li> <li>Insufficient evidence and/or details</li> <li>Minimal organization</li> <li>Poor expression of ideas</li> <li>Minimal awareness of the task and mode</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1B</a>	
<a href="#">0</a>	The response shows evidence the student has read the text, but does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question.

### Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
<a href="#">3A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent control of a variety of sentence structures relative to length of essay</li> <li>Consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay</li> </ul>
<a href="#">3B</a>	
<a href="#">3C</a>	
<a href="#">3D</a>	
<a href="#">2</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly consistent control of sentence structures relative to length of essay</li> <li>Mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little control and/or no variety in sentence structure and/or</li> <li>Little control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or insufficient length</li> </ul>
<a href="#">0A</a>	Sentences are formed incorrectly with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or insufficient length.
<a href="#">0B</a>	

\*In both Scoring Guides, letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 5A and 5B).

**Idea Development—Score Point 5A**

This essay is fully developed, and in three paragraphs, examines the emotions of the two main characters through an insightful analysis of information from both passages. The central idea is stated in the opening sentence, which serves as a brief but relevant introduction: “While both... Collins...and Cameron...start out as calm preparing for the expeditions, only James Cameron remains so.” Organization is skillful, ideas connect throughout, and insightful commentary is woven together with effectively chosen details from the passages. Similarities between Cameron’s and Collins’s emotions are developed in the first paragraph, as Cameron’s sense of calm endures despite “the roughest conditions...so far” at sea, and Collins, like Cameron, feels comfortable in confined space and experiences “[n]o lurking terror, only smug satisfaction.” Cameron’s ability to maintain his calm demeanor is developed in the second paragraph: “Despite a nervous buildup to the day, he is confident in his training and trusts his experience.” This enables him to control any apprehension and continue his mission with confidence: “The anxiety Cameron once felt is replaced with anticipation for accomplishment[;] he recognizes being calm is the [way] to achieve this accomplishment.” Collins’s anxiety, on the other hand, is presented as a major contrast to what Cameron experiences: he felt “alone on this mission” and “was so caught up in the stress of this launch that he forgot the steps to it.” Relevant details from the passage effectively demonstrate Collins’s concern as he worries about the propellant gauge and anticipates the moment of lift-off. The conclusion is brief but reinforces the central idea: “The contrast between both launches at the end is evident... Both men handle the beginning of the preparation calmly, James Cameron continues with this mindset[,] but Michael Collins submits to his anxiety.” The essay demonstrates full awareness of the task and the explanatory mode of writing.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 3A**

This essay demonstrates consistent control of a variety of sentence structures, as shown in these examples: “He must sit in a confined position for eight hours but according to Cameron, ‘it just feels snug and comforting.’ Similarly, Michael Collins must get into a space suit that only allows the sense of sight.” Control of grammar, usage, and mechanics is consistent for the complexity and length of the writing, and word choice is correct and effective. Minor errors include some comma splices and a few awkward sentences, such as “The spacecraft proves to remove him of some comfort.” However, these errors do not outweigh the overall sense of control demonstrated by the writer.

While both Michael Collins in "Carrying the Fire", and James Cameron in "Pressure Dive", start out as calm preparing for the expeditions, only James Cameron remains so. James Cameron is performing a solo dive into the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on Earth. Cameron remarks early into preparation that, "These are the roughest conditions I've dived in so far on the expedition"(paragraph 2). However, he remains calm despite this setback and sticks to the task at hand. The steel ball he must sit in for the dive is ready. He must sit in a confined position for eight hours but according to Cameron, "...it just feels snug and comforting"(paragraph 3). Similarly, Michael Collins must get into a space suit that only allows the sense of sight. For his expedition he must also operate in a claustrophobic space but says that the G-4C-36, "...feels good. No lurking terror, only smug satisfaction at its familiar clutch, with no lumps, no bumps, no blemishes-an old friend reborn for the occasion"(paragraph 1). Both Collins and Cameron are forced into a small space for their expedition but both handle it well. They report that they feel no discomfort and are ready to continue on with their task. The conditions would scare anyone else, proving they are ready for their dangerous jobs.

James Cameron tells the audience that he has been nervous leading up to the dive but he no longer feels that way. The adrenaline of accomplishing his dream of many years is

ridding his mind of feelings of anxiety. He says, "I've had years to contemplate this moment, and I won't say there hasn't been dread in the past few weeks, thinking about all the things that could go wrong. But right now I feel suprisingly calm"(paragraph 5). Cameron is professional and ready to complete his job without nerves getting in the way. Despite a nervous buildup to the day, he is confident in his training and trusts his experience. He furthers this thought with saying, "There's no apprehension at this point, only determination to do what we came out here for, and childlike excitement for what's ahead"(paragraph 5). Cameron is even excited to complete his job. He will be making a record dive that no one has ever done before. He has work hard to get where he is and he trusts his own ability. The anxiety Cameron once felt is replaced with anticipation for accomplishment, he recognizes being calm is the way to achieve this accomplishment. James Cameron ends saying that, "After a lifetime of dreaming, seven years developing the sub, grueling months of construction, and the stress and emotion of the voyage here. I'm finally on my way to Challenger Deep..."(paragrph 7) James Cameron shows appreciation for his own sacrifice in training many years for this voyage. He knows his crew will get him to his goal and everything will go according to the plan they have been working on for seven years. The stress he felt is gone and he now feels calm and ready to take on the Mariana Trench.

Later onto preparation, Michael Collins begins to show his anxiety over how the expedition will go. The spacecraft proves to remove him of some comfort. He is embarking on a dangerous voyage where a team is required and he says, "We are isolated at last, in our own little world, with only the crackle of the intercom and the hiss of oxygen for company" (paragraph 4). Collins feels alone on this mission that requires a lot of trust and help. He is separated by this spacecraft from the people who will be guiding him and it makes him nervous because he know soon he will be separated by many miles. This anxiety escalates when he thinks that the propellant guage is on zero. He worries that someone forgot to fill the tank but realizes, "...this measurement is not activated until just before the launch. I should have known this"(paragraph 4). He was so caught up in the stress of this launch that he forgot the steps to it. Michael Collins was feeling anxious about the launch and so he lost focus of the task at hand. James Cameron kept his cool and proceeded to complete the steps to his own launch. While Cameron showed appreciation for his dedication to the dive, Michael Collins is busy focusing on the danger of his own that could be potentially deadly. As he carries out one of the final steps to launch he thinks..."grab the ejection D-ring between your legs with both hands; one jerk and both our seats will explode from this monster"(paragraph 5). The contrast between both launches at the end is evident. Michael Collins is focused on the potential fatalness of his space voyage and James Cameron is focused on his hardwork. The different procedures call for different mindsets. Both men handle the beginning of the preparation calmly, James Cameron continues with this mindset but Michael Collins submits to his anxiety.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 5B**

This fully developed essay insightfully analyzes the similarities and differences between Cameron’s and Collins’s emotions during their respective journeys. Organization is effective as the essay describes a series of similar emotions shared by the two men but indicates that “the intensity and timing of their emotions differed.” The idea that Cameron and Collins both felt “anxiety and uncertainty” as well as “satisfaction and joy” is explained and analyzed with specific references to the passages. Skillfully selected details create a rich view of events and emotions: Cameron is shown to be uneasy well before his mission, and Collins experiences self-doubt just as his mission is about to begin. Similarly, Collins shows satisfaction as he prepares for the flight without any sense of “lurking terror,” and Cameron “describes his satisfaction with ‘childlike excitement[,]’ which makes it obvious that his joy overrides any anxiety he felt prior.” The two men felt similar emotions; however, the essay notes that they experienced them differently, and this is where the contrast lies: “Cameron had felt the anxiety more prominently in the weeks leading up to the expedition, but he managed to feel more excitement and satisfaction” at the start of his journey. Collins, on the other hand, “was more satisfied and comfortable prior to the expedition, and then felt the negative emotions when he was about to take off.” Though it repeats the central idea stated in the introduction, the conclusion adds some relevant commentary. The writing demonstrates full awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 3B**

This essay shows consistent control of a variety of sentence structures, as shown in this example: “Both men, James Cameron and Michael Collins, experienced a mix of emotions, including anxiety and satisfaction, but the intensity and timing of their emotions differed.” Textual complexity is sufficient to demonstrate consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Rich language, as evidenced by the effective inclusion of such words as “ineffable,” “fatal,” and “prior,” is used throughout the essay.

In the passages, “Pressure Drive” by James Cameron and *Carrying the Fire* by Michael Collins, both men went on dangerous expeditions. Cameron performed a solo dive to the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean, while Collins flew in a spacecraft in order to aid in future explorations. Both men experienced a mix of emotions, including anxiety and satisfaction, but the intensity and timing of their emotions differed.

The expeditions these men endured were ineffable. With that big of a task, there comes the feeling of anxiety and uncertainty. Cameron expectedly felt these emotions about the expedition. He tells the reader, “I’ve had years to contemplate this moment, and I won’t say there hasn’t been dread in the past few weeks, thinking about all the things that could go wrong.” Clearly, Cameron has had this anxiety and uncertainty of what is going to happen and if the events could be fatal. Collins had a similar experience with his emotions. Before take off, Collins says, “The next surprise is not pleasant...Impossible, it must simply be that something is wrong somewhere in the sensing system. What to do now?” Collins is second guessing himself at this time because of his anxiety and uncertainty of what could happen when they take off. He believes something is wrong, even though everything is safe and sound.

Although expeditions like these are anxiety inducing, they can also provide people with a sense of satisfaction and joy. Cameron was one to be very excited about his expedition. Right before take off, he told the readers that everyone was “...running on adrenaline.” He was very joyful for this experience, and it is very clear. Soon after, he describes the tight and isolated conditions he had to endure. He states, “People always ask me if I get claustrophobic in the sub. To me it just feels snug and comforting.” In such an uncomfortable position, Cameron managed to find satisfaction and comfort. He then goes on to explain how his anxiety has lifted and a sense of calmness has settled in. Before take

off, he says, "There's no apprehension at this point, only determination to do what we came out here for, and childlike excitement for what's ahead." Now, Cameron is completely joyful and satisfied with his decision; no second guessing or discomfort with what could happen, just pure excitement. Collins also had this excitement before the expedition. When checking the spacesuit, he says, "Today G-4C-36 feels good. No lurking terror, only smug satisfaction..." Here, he is prepared and comfortable with what is to come. While sitting in the isolated part of the spacecraft, he managed to find some comfort. "I look over at John and smile." Even in such an anxiety riddled situation, he managed to crack a smile, which displays some kind of comfort.

Both men experienced some of the same emotions, however, the timing of their emotions were different. Cameron's anxious emotions presented themselves prior to the expedition. He talks about this when he says how he contemplated what could go wrong. Meanwhile, Collin's anxiety was more prominent moments before take off. He second guesses himself and freaks out internally about the reliability of the spacecraft, after being relatively content with what was to come moments beforehand. Collin's satisfaction and comfort was clear when he talks about the lack of "lurking terror" when checking the suit. It was also clear when he managed to crack a smile before take off. Cameron, on the other hand, felt this satisfaction and comfort while he was about to take off. He tells the reader about the adrenaline rush, how calm he is, and the lack of apprehension. He describes his satisfaction with "childlike excitement" which makes it very obvious that his joy overrides any anxiety he felt prior.

Both men, James Cameron and Michael Collins, experienced a mix of emotions, including anxiety and satisfaction, but the intensity and timing of their emotions differed. Cameron had felt the anxiety more prominently in the weeks leading up to the expedition, but he managed to feel more excitement and satisfaction when the time had come. On the flip side, Collins was more satisfied and comfortable prior to the expedition, and then felt the negative emotions when he was about to take off. Although they felt the same emotions, they felt them in different aspects of the explorations.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 4**

This well-developed essay focuses primarily on how the characters' experiences and emotions differ: "The two main characters are in a completely [different] state of mind before [their] expeditions, Cameron being calm while Collins is worried." Cameron "seems calm and peaceful," though he understands the risks of his mission when he says, "I won't say there hasn't been dread in the last few weeks." Collins is "less confident in himself," and "[h]e talks about how every little thing surprises him, and sends a shock of fear through him." This contrast is extended with details that describe the characters' familiarity with their vehicles: Cameron "helped build it [the sub] and knows how to fix it if it broke down," while Collins "is less confident in his ability to fix the spacecraft." Despite focusing mainly on the differences between the two characters, the writer does acknowledge some similarity in the two men's experiences: "Yes[,] they both are going on daring expeditions that could be life-threatening if slightly messed up, but both are viewing them differently." The explanation of the details from the text becomes rather sparse and repetitive toward the end of the essay, but there is an attempt to link the details to a central idea. Even though some of the transition words and phrases are formulaic, the essay is organized by concept, which is an effective strategy. The writer demonstrates full awareness of the task and writing mode.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 3C**

Sentence structures are correct and demonstrate consistent control in writing that is sufficiently complex, as shown in this quotation: "For example when the he checks the propellant quantity [gauge], seeing it is on zero, he begins to panic, while his partner is completely calm with it." There is some awkwardness in the writing, and minor mistakes in spelling and usage are apparent, though the meaning is generally clear: "He also speaks on how he has been contemplating this decision fro years, but that he calm as of now." Control of grammar, usage, and mechanics is consistent throughout the essay.

In the passages from "Pressure Dive" and *Carrying a Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys*, the two main characters are both about to begin very dangerous but exciting expeditions, one being in space in the other being in the ocean. Although properly prepared, both of the two main characters are feeling differently emotionally, one feeling confident and excited about the adventure and the other feeling nervous and anxious about his adventure.

In the passage from "Pressure Dive", the speaker James Cameron, as he is describing his submarine and his surroundings, seems calm and peaceful as he is doing so. He tells how the pilot chamber in his submarine is, "snug and comforting" (Cameron 3) which emphasizes his calmness. He also speaks on how he has been contemplating this decision for years, but that he is calm as of now. He said, "I've had years to contemplate this moment, and I won't say there hasn't been dread in the past few weeks, thinking about all the things that could go wrong. But right now I feel surprisingly calm, I am wrapped in the sub, a part of it and a part of me, an extension of my ideas and dreams. In the passage from the book *Carrying a Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys*, we can see that the main character Michael Collins is less confident in himself, and begins to worry as he boards the spacecraft. He talks about how every little thing surprises him, and sends a shock of fear through him. For example, when he checks the propellant quantity gauge, seeing that it is on zero, he begins to panic, while his partner is completely calm with it. He begins to say, "How can that be? With all the checks, and counterchecks, and tests and verifications, could someone have forgotten to fill the tank with our rendezvous fuel?" (Collins 4). The two main characters are in a completely different state of mind before their expeditions, Cameron being calm while Collins is worried.

Another point that makes Cameron seem more confident about his adventure is how he is experienced with his submarine. He helped build it and knows how to fix it if it broke

down. He explains that when he says, 'After a lifetime of dreaming, seven years developing the sub, grueling months of construction, and the stress and emotion of the voyage here, I'm finally on my way.' (Cameron 7) As for the the astronaut Collins piloting the spacecraft, he is less confident in his ability to fix the spacecraft. He described how his partner wasn't wrong about his abilities to fix the spacecraft saying, "He's not far wrong. Here I am, just a fancy heavy-equipment operator who couldn't fix any piece of this machine if it broke..."(Collins 3). His lack of confidence in himself being able to fix the spacecraft, and in just thinking the spacecraft is going to break down itself shows his nervousness and fear for the trip he is about to take.

After reading the two passages, it is easy to determine that the two main characters emotions are very different. Yes they both are going on daring expeditions that could be life threatening if slightly messed up, but both are viewing them differently. The diver Cameron is confident in his skill and knowledge about diving and his submarine, while the the astronaut Collins is anxious and nervous, worrying about every little thing that occurs, and fearing something bad will happen to the spacecraft while in action, which he has no idea how to fix.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 3**

This moderately developed essay begins with a general central idea, stating, “Cameron and Collins both have the same emotions at some points[,] but their emotions also vary as both stories go on.” Some misinterpretation is evident in the first paragraph, where both characters are described as feeling confined and uncomfortable in their vehicles. In the two body paragraphs, Collins’s increasing panic is set against Cameron’s feelings of excitement and calm: “Unlike Michael Collins, James Cameron stays calm throughout his entire preparation for his expedition.” Evidence and details are mostly appropriate, but there are many other details that could have been included to strengthen the essay. The organization is moderate, although the development is somewhat repetitive. The writing demonstrates an adequate expression of ideas and sufficient awareness of the task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 3D**

Though this essay is brief, there is sufficient textual complexity and correctness of grammatical forms to demonstrate consistent control of standard English conventions. Sentence structures are varied and correct, as shown in this example: “Even though he has thought about this moment for years[,] he stays calm and does what he is supposed to do.” The writing shows consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Based on "Pressure Dive" and *Carrying the Fire*, Cameron and Collins both have the same emotions at some points but their emotions also vary as both stories go on. In the beginning of "Pressure Dive" and *Carrying the Fire* both of the narrators describe their confinement in the submarine and in the space suit in the rocket ship. In "Pressure Dive" James Cameron describes his experience as "...packed into it like a walnut in its shell, my knees pushed up in a hunched sitting position, my head pressured down by the curve of the hull" (Paragraph 3 of "Pressure Dive"). Cameron is cramped into a small space in the submarine and is uncomfortable but he still remains calm. Michael Collins describes how confined he is in the suit by "...first the feet struggling with the turns and twists of the nylon inner liner; then jackknifing torso over double to get arms far enough into place and slip head into the neck ring..." (Paragraph 1 of *Carrying the Fire*). Collins is very uncomfortable in the suit but he is still calm like Cameron.

As the story of *Carrying the Fire* goes on, Collins begins to panic because the propellant quantity gauge is at zero. Collins panics and says "It's flat on zero! How can that be?" (Paragraph 4 of *Carrying the Fire*). His emotions switch from being uncomfortable and calm to panicked. As Collins continues to panic he "tap the glass and peer at John. He nods curtly and goes on about his business" (Paragraph 4 of *Carrying the Fire*). As Michael sees the other astronaut beside him calm, he begins to be calm and realizes that the gauge sprung to life.

Unlike Michael Collins, James Cameron stays calm throughout his entire preparation for his expedition. As Cameron is about to descend he says "But right now I feel surprisingly calm" (Paragraph 5 of "Pressure Dive"). Even though he has thought about this moment for years he stays calm and does what he is supposed to do. Right before Cameron released to descend he says "There's no apprehension at this point, only determination to do what we came out here for, and childlike excitement for what's ahead" (Paragraph 5 of "Pressure Dive"). This shows that Cameron is determined to get this done correctly and at the same time he is excited about it.

Although Cameron's and Collins's emotions are different at times as they are preparing for their expeditions they both want to do their part correctly and are determined. This is

shown when Michael Collins panics when the gauge shows zero and he doesn't know what to do but in the end he begins to stay calm again and he does what he is supposed to do. James Cameron stays calm during his entire preparation for his expedition and he knows exactly what he is supposed to do.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 2**

This somewhat developed essay presents a limited view of Cameron’s and Collins’s emotions. A few similarities and differences are expressed in reference to basic information from the passages: “Both men experienced a sense of isolation and a sense of danger, which [toyed?] with their emotions,” and “[s]ince Cameron was in the ocean and Collins in space, some emotions differ.” The second paragraph adds details to support the characters’ different experiences of anxiety: Cameron “felt safe because he knew the submarine very well,” but Collins regretted his inability to repair the spacecraft, “which made him feel a little more unsafe in his exploration.” Organization is limited in this brief essay, and the writing reveals only a partial awareness of task and mode.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2**

Though there are relatively few errors in this essay, the length and complexity are not sufficient to demonstrate consistent control of sentences, grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Based on "Pressure Dive" and *Carrying the Fire*, James Cameron and Michael Collins experienced similar emotion surrounding their expeditions. On the other hand, since Cameron was in the ocean and Collins in space, some emotions differ. Both men experienced a sense of isolation and a sense of danger, which toyed with their emotions. Cameron says, "These are the roughest conditions I've dived in so far..." which gives you the idea that he feared the danger of being that deep in the sea. Collins gets into a situation in *Carrying the Fire* where he is nervous about fuel, "Could someone have forgotten to fill the tank...?" which also shows his emotion of fear. This and the fact they both were well-isolated from the surface of the Earth, made their emotions very similar through their expedition.

With Cameron having been well prepared and knowing about the submarine that he took part in designing, "As co-designer, I know its every function...", he felt safe because he knew the submarine very well. Collins did not know his suit very well, "Just a fancy heavy-equipment operator who couldn't fix any piece of this machine if it broke." which made him feel a little more unsafe in his exploration. These two explorers are similar in many ways, yet still differ in others.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 1A**

The central idea of the response is stated but not developed: “Cameron’s and Collins’s emotions as they are preparing for their expeditions are similar but also different from each other.” The response includes, but does not expand upon, brief statements about the emotions that each character experiences: “Cameron says that he was very calm as he was being placed in that giant steel bubble,” and “Collins was nervous when being put into his suit.” Organization is minimal, and the writing demonstrates minimal awareness of the task.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1**

There is too little writing in this essay to show more than little control of conventions. Simple sentences are formed correctly, but there is minimal original text from the writer. More complexity and length needs to be present to show control over a variety of conventions.

Based on these two passages Cameron's and Collins's emotions as they are preparing for their expeditions are similar but also different from each other. In "Pressure Dive" Cameron says that he was very calm as he was being placed in that giant steel bubble. Unlike in "Carrying The Fire" where Collins was nervous when being put into his suit. Cameron also stated that he was nervous of this expedition on the days leading up to it. In both of these passages both Cameron and Collins were excited to go on their expeditions.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 1B**

The response consists of a single run-on sentence. The central idea is not developed, though vague similarities are mentioned: “they are both [nervous] and feel confined.” The writing shows minimal awareness of the task.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0A**

This brief response contains numerous errors and demonstrates no control of sentence structure, grammar, usage, or mechanics.

In the Passages they are both nervous and feel confined into an area and they are taking some risks for modern exploitation and both feel isolated from society when they are exploring and have a lot of worries about dangers because if something goes wrong they will die because there is no escape route or emergency vehicles they can get to them after a disaster if it were to happen.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)

**Idea Development—Score Point 0**

The response includes a detail from “Pressure Dive,” so it is clear that the student read at least one of the passages. However, there is no attempt to answer the question.

**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0B**

The response is too brief and contains too many errors to show any control of conventions.

they had to use a 400 pound hatch to keep the crew member safe on the ships to keep the members safe so they dont sink.

[Back to Scoring Guides](#)