



TN1804 Spring 2018

Anchor Set

English II

Explanatory Essay

Item # 627041

Superstitions and Rituals

Read the passages and answer Questions 1 through 4. Then write a response to the writing prompt.

Passage 1

Excerpt from “The Chicago Cubs, the Goat Curse and the Psychological Roots of Superstition”

When this passage was written, the Chicago Cubs were potential contenders for the 2016 World Series. While that season is long over, the point that the author makes about superstition is timeless.

- 1 It is, of course, scientifically impossible for the legendary Curse of the Billy Goat—which dictates that the Chicago Cubs will never win the World Series—to affect the outcome of games in the 2016 postseason. To give credence to the curse (laid on the team in October 1945 by an angry bar owner whose smelly mascot goat was evicted from Wrigley Field) is irrational and the very definition of magical thinking. And yet, as the Cubs once again seek to end their 108-year World Series Championship drought, lifelong fans like Michael Pardys struggle—and fail—to remain rational. “Intellectually, I know this is a really good baseball team,” says Pardys, 66, an attorney and Wrigley Field season-ticket holder. “They won 103 games in the regular season and there’s no reason at all that they shouldn’t win. But there’s a feeling of doom that hangs over me. Something always intervenes.” To fend off his sense of dread, and to try to help his team overcome decades of ill fortune, Pardys is wearing the same Cubs hat and sweatshirt to every game he attends this fall and performing a ritual handshake with his wife Sandy and a third fan before the first pitch. “I feel really silly saying this,” he admits, “but I somehow feel that the whole thing is really delicately balanced, that anything can change it.”
- 2 Pardys may be sheepish about it, but when he gives in to his superstitious impulses he is acting on common psychological tendencies that are shared by a lot of other intelligent, emotionally stable adults. Indeed, the intuitive thinking that prompts many superstitious behaviors may actually carry an evolutionary advantage. “You would never want to undo the processes that give rise to superstitious thinking,” says Jane Risen, an associate professor of behavioral science at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business who studies judgment and intuitive belief formation.
- 3 Those processes, Risen says, involve what’s known as “System 1 thinking,” from the dual process model of thinking as developed and popularized by psychologist Daniel Kahneman. In that model System 1 offers quick, intuitive answers to judgment problems that are sometimes essential for survival, and System 2 analyzes and may correct what System 1 proposes. While an otherwise rational person’s embrace of superstition might seem like a failure of System 2,

Risen suggests in her work that people like Pardys “recognize that their belief is irrational, but choose to acquiesce to a powerful intuition.” To put it another way, System 2 does its job and points out that wearing a certain sweatshirt cannot possibly affect the play on the field, and the fan simply rejects it.

- 4 The length of the Cubs’ ordeal—more than a century—and the number of people who have shared the pain are also factors in fans’ propensity for superstitious rituals. “The intuitive properties of a long-held superstition are likely to be much stronger,” Risen says. “And the fact that other people believe it means that it’s entertained as a possibility. With the Cubs, you pay attention to this lore because everybody else is paying attention to it.”
- 5 And because, well, there has to be a reason the Cubs have not won the World Series since 1908—doesn’t there? Research shows that in our desire to understand why things happen and to deal with the uncertainties of life, people often resort to what is called causal reasoning, which can lead us to see patterns and connections that don’t exist. If, for example, the Cubs had won the 1946 World Series (or any World Series in the 1950s or 1960s), the Curse of the Billy Goat would be long forgotten. But they didn’t—and though there are thousands of baseball-related reasons for the drought, evoking the curse is, in its way, the most appealing. Chicago native and lifelong Cubs fan Darian Martyniuk, 49, who has his own elaborate set of game-day rituals, understands the simple pull of superstition. “It’s very tempting and it’s very comforting,” he says.
- 6 Along with the anxiety relief that can come from superstitious behaviors, another psychological tendency at work in Wrigley Field is confirmation bias. “The way we think about things,” Risen says, “is we start with a hypothesis and we move forward with that. We look for confirmatory evidence. We don’t try to disconfirm.” So when Martyniuk, who says he is “slightly OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder)” as well as superstitious, catches the same train to the game and enters through the same gate and wears the same hat and the Cubs win, it confirms his feeling that he is doing his part to help the team.

Excerpt from “The Chicago Cubs, the Goat Curse and the Psychological Roots of Superstition,” by David Noonan, from *Scientific American*, October 12, 2016.

Passage 2

Excerpt from “Why Rituals Work”

by Francesca Gino & Michael I. Norton

7 Think about the last time you were about to interview for a job, speak in front of an audience, or go on a first date. To quell your nerves, chances are you spent time preparing—reading up on the company, reviewing your slides, practicing your charming patter. People facing situations that induce anxiety typically take comfort in engaging in preparatory activities, inducing a feeling of being back in control and reducing uncertainty.

8 While a little extra preparation seems perfectly reasonable, people also engage in seemingly less logical behaviors in such situations. Here’s one person’s description from our research:

9 **I pound my feet strongly on the ground several times, I take several deep breaths, and I “shake” my body to remove any negative energies. I do this often before going to work, going into meetings, and at the front door before entering my house after a long day.**

10 While we wonder what this person’s co-workers and neighbors think of their shaky acquaintance, such rituals—the symbolic behaviors we perform before, during, and after meaningful events—are surprisingly ubiquitous, across culture and time. Rituals take an extraordinary array of shapes and forms. At times performed in communal or religious settings, at times performed in solitude; at times involving fixed, repeated sequences of actions, at other times not. People engage in rituals with the intention of achieving a wide set of desired outcomes, from reducing their anxiety to boosting their confidence, alleviating their grief to performing well in a competition—or even making it rain.

11 Recent research suggests that rituals may be more rational than they appear. Why? Because even simple rituals can be extremely effective. Rituals performed after experiencing losses—from loved ones to lotteries—do alleviate grief, and rituals performed before high-pressure tasks—like singing in public—do in fact reduce anxiety and increase people’s confidence. What’s more, rituals appear to benefit even people who claim not to believe that rituals work. While anthropologists have documented rituals across cultures, this earlier research has been primarily observational. Recently, a series of investigations by psychologists have revealed intriguing new results demonstrating that rituals can have a causal impact on people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

- 12 Basketball superstar Michael Jordan wore his North Carolina shorts underneath his Chicago Bulls shorts in every game; Curtis Martin of the New York Jets reads Psalm 91 before every game. And Wade Boggs, former third baseman for the Boston Red Sox, woke up at the same time each day, ate chicken before each game, took exactly 117 ground balls in practice, took batting practice at 5:17, and ran sprints at 7:17. (Boggs also wrote the Hebrew word Chai (“living”) in the dirt before each at bat. Boggs was not Jewish.) Do rituals like these actually improve performance? In one recent experiment, people received either a “lucky golf ball” or an ordinary golf ball, and then performed a golf task; in another, people performed a motor dexterity task and were either asked to simply start the game or heard the researcher say “I’ll cross fingers for you” before starting the game. The superstitious rituals enhanced people’s confidence in their abilities, motivated greater effort—and improved subsequent performance. These findings are consistent with research in sport psychology demonstrating the performance benefits of pre-performance routines, from improving attention and execution to increasing emotional stability and confidence.

Excerpt from “Why Rituals Work,” by Francesca Gino & Michael I. Norton, from *Scientific American*, May 14, 2013.

Writing Prompt

You have just read two passages about superstitions and rituals. Write an informational essay explaining why people believe in the power of superstitions and rituals.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- Plan your essay and do some prewriting in the space provided
- Write your essay on the lined pages of your answer document

Be sure to

- Use evidence from **both** passages
- Avoid over-relying on one passage

Your written response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay.

Write your essay on the lined pages of the answer document. **Anything you write that is not on the lined pages will NOT be scored.**

Anchor Paper 1
Packet A Paper 8

English II

Have you ever believed in superstition, or participated in a ritual? Although this may seem odd to some, science shows that believing in superstitions and participating in rituals can positively impact a person. Studies show that people who are superstitious or perform rituals are more personified than without superstition or rituals. Given this information, it seems logical to pursue these habits. Some of the reasons people believe in the positivity of superstition or rituals is because they calm anxiety, boost confidence, and provide an answer to the question why. Anxiety plays a major role in the lives of many people, and can be hard to overcome. However, studies have shown that confidence in superstition or preparing a ritual can reduce

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a person's anxiety. In "Why Rituals Work" by Francesca Gino and Michael I. Norton, they write, "People facing situations that induce anxiety typically take comfort in engaging in preparatory activities, inducing a feeling of being back in control and reducing uncertainty." By feeling they are back in control due to these practices, a person's anxiety level reduces. In another passage, "The Chicago Cubs, the Goat Curse and the Psychological Roots of Superstition" by David Noonan, the author states, "Along with the anxiety relief that can come from superstitious behaviors, another psychological tendency at work in Wrigley Field is confirmation bias." This further confirms that superstition and rituals can calm anxiety. Another wonderful impact

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English II

of a belief in these practices is a confidence boost.

Lack of confidence is also a struggle many people face. However, superstitions and rituals can boost a person's confidence. In their excerpt, Gina and Norton reveal, "The superstitious rituals enhanced people's confidence in their abilities, motivated greater effort – and improved subsequent performance." This remark was in regard to a recent experiment on the effects of superstitious rituals. In addition to this, people may also fascinate themselves with superstition and rituals because they can provide an answer to the ever sought question of why.

Everyone has at some point in their life questioned why. Using rituals and superstitions,

people may finally have an answer to that question. In many sports events, people often practice rituals with the superstition that if they do not, their team will not do well. These rituals can provide a reason to some for why their team did well or not. In his except, David Noonan explains, "Research shows that in our desire to understand why things happen and to deal with the uncertainties of life, people often resort to what is called causal reasoning, which can lead us to see patterns that don't exist." Using their causal reasoning, people find answers to the questions they constantly ask. This information makes the use of rituals and superstition much more reasonable.

People believe in superstition and practice

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rituals for various reasons. A few of these are to calm anxiety, boost confidence, and provide answers to frequently sought questions. Although some people find these practices to be insane, their benefits greatly outweigh others' opinions. Those who participate in these practices are more personified than those who do not. Do you have any superstitious rituals?

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Focus & Organization: 4

The response contains an effective and relevant introduction with a solid thesis as to why people believe in superstitions and rituals, “...*they calm anxiety, boost confidence, and provide an answer to the question why.*” The response utilizes a clear and effective organizational strategy, the transition of each paragraph leads logically to the next, effectively clarifying ideas and creating cohesion. The concluding statement is relevant, effective, and engaging.

Development: 4

The writing presents sufficient, well-chosen, and relevant evidence from the stimuli to support the thesis. The writing thoroughly and accurately explains the evidence to thoroughly develop the topic. The statement that, “*people who are superstitious and perform rituals are more personified*”, is unclear, but this does not diminish the overall explanation of the topic and evidence. The response demonstrates a clear and thoughtful understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 3

The writing illustrates a consistent command of precise language (*Frequently, outweigh, struggle, fascinate, pursue*) and domain-specific vocabulary. There is consistent command of syntactic variety, including rhetorical questions to add interest and engage the reader. Transitional words and phrases are appropriate and varied (*However, In addition to, along with*). The response establishes and maintains a formal style and an objective tone.

Conventions: 4

The writing demonstrates consistent and generally sophisticated command of grade-level conventions. There is solid control of quotation marks, question marks, commas (*introductory statements are offset by commas*), capitalization, usage, and spelling. This is considered a low 4 in this domain.

Anchor Paper 2
Packet B Paper 20

English II

People have, for many years, relied on various methods of explaining things around them. Some have chosen scientific explanations or generally accepted facts as explanations for the "how" and "why" questions in life. Others turn to other methods to give them a sense of understanding or control. People partake in superstition and rituals to gain a sense of control on things they are otherwise powerless, at least mentally, over.

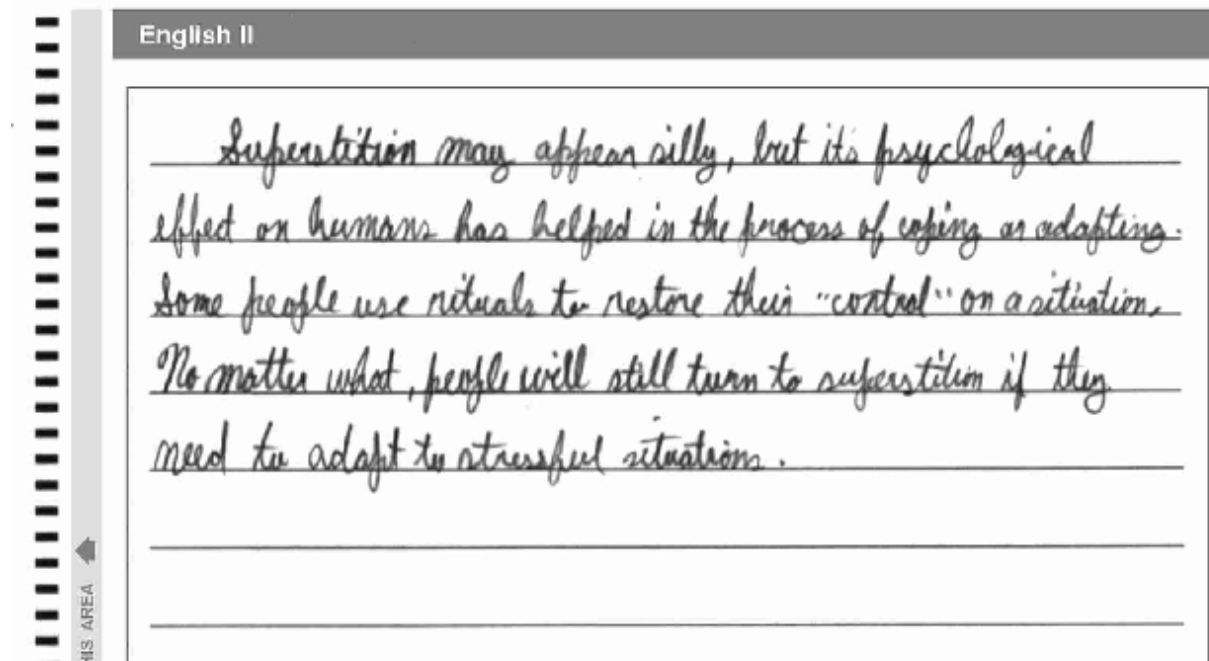
One example of using superstition as a "control medium" can be found in Passage 1. A so-called "curse" supposedly renders the Chicago Cubs baseball team unable to win any World Series games. Michael Pandys, a fan of the Cubs, has resorted to a superstitious ritual of handslapping while wearing his Cubs hat and did to ward off a sense of dread he feels at games. He goes so far as to say, "...I somehow feel that the whole thing is really delicately balanced, that anything can change it" (paragraph 1).

Passage 2 states that people "facing situations that induce anxiety typically take comfort in engaging in preparatory activities" (paragraph 7). These activities help return the feeling of control and, in a way, induce a placebo effect. In Hardy's case, he is convincing himself that he can have a positive grip on his situation, thus warding off his dread.

Passage 2 also states that these rituals "may be more rational than they appear" (paragraph 11). As stated earlier, these rituals trigger a sort of placebo effect. Paragraph 12 even elaborates that "superstitious rituals enhanced people's confidence in their abilities." Rituals can be seen as psychologic reinforcement or conditioning.

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Focus & Organization: 4

The response contains an effective and relevant introduction clearly stating that, “*People partake in superstitions and rituals to gain a sense of control...*” The essay remains focused on this concept and uses an effective organizational strategy to create a unified whole. The ideas are effectively clarified and supported with examples from both passages creating cohesion of ideas and resulting in a satisfying essay.

Development: 3

The writing presents sufficient, well-chosen, relevant evidence from the stimuli but does not explain the evidence insightfully or offer enough analysis to merit a higher score point in this domain thereby only adequately developing the topic. Although the essay is not thoroughly developed, the concepts of the “control medium” and “placebo effect”, are insightful and thoughtful and demonstrates a clear and insightful understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 4

The writing illustrates a consistent and sophisticated command of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary (*supposedly renders; control medium; placebo; reinforcement; coping; adapting*). There is consistent command of syntactic variety with varied transitions. The writing uses compound and complex sentences, some with embedded clauses, for reader interest. The response establishes and maintains a formal style and an objective tone.

Conventions: 4

The writing demonstrates consistent but not always sophisticated command of grade-level conventions. There is solid control of quotation marks, ellipses, capitalization, usage, and spelling. In contemporary usage, the phrase ‘so-called’, almost always has a negative meaning. If that is the intent here then the hyphen is correct. However, the quotation marks should not then be used to set off the descriptive word ‘curse’ that follows.

**Anchor Paper 3
Packet A Paper 5**

English II

Superstitions and rituals are held by people for many reasons. People find comfort in these beliefs and practices that they otherwise would not feel. These habits and explanations fill voids of knowledge and help individuals to understand situations and gain confidence in whatever it is they are doing. Without these scenarios and quirks people may not be able to cope with challenges they are to face. People need them to calm their insecurities and conquer the giants they are up against in day to day life.

An excerpt from "The Chicago Cubs, the Goat Curse, and the Psychological Roots of Superstition" explains why people choose to subscribe to superstition, like the Billy Goat curse placed on the Cubs, knowing they are false. Jane Risen of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business states the phenomenon is due to System 1 thinking. This thinking process "offers quick, intuitive answers to judgment problems ... sometimes essential to survival."

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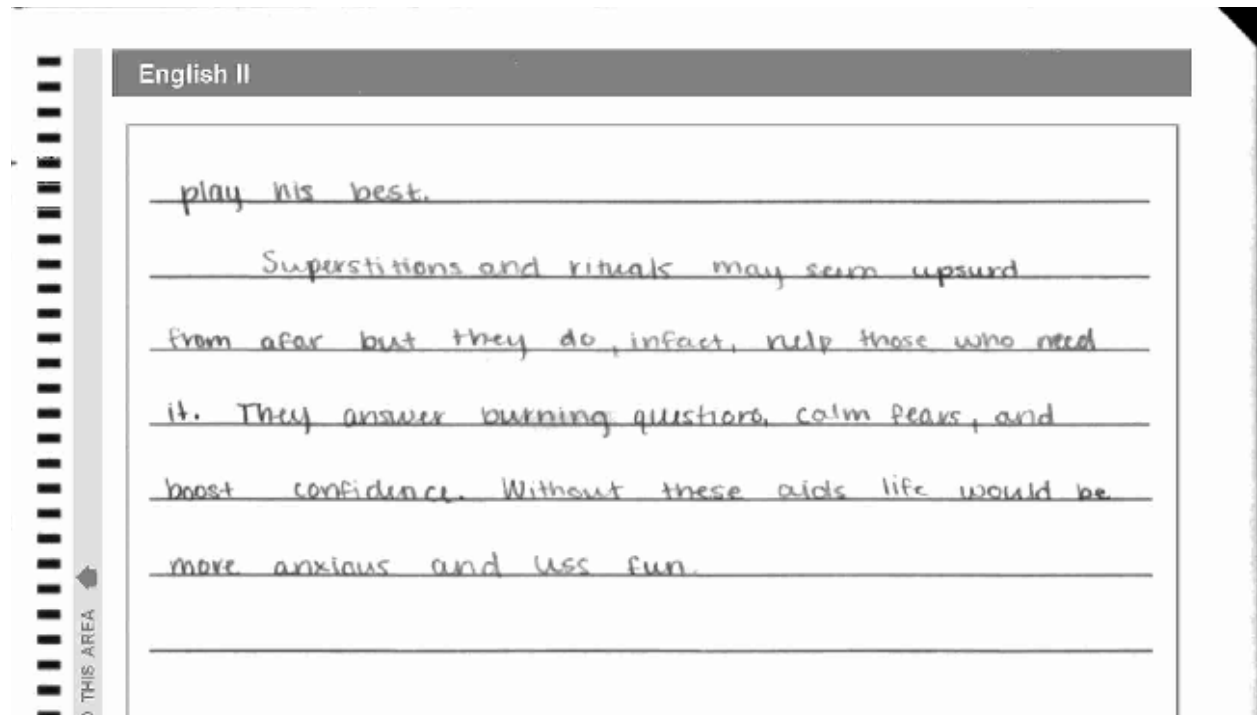
System 2 however fixes what System 1 got wrong. She explains that people know their beliefs are irrational but choose to believe them anyway. Cubs fans choose to think they are not winning because of a curse not the more logical baseball related answer. She also explains that humans look to confirm those beliefs. Behaving certain ways produces certain outcomes in the human mind so wearing the same hat to every game affects what happens in our brains. Its known not to make a difference but people continue the rituals all the same. The excerpt from "Why Rituals Work" explains that this behavior is calming and increases confidence. An example given is Michael Jordan wearing his North Carolina shorts under his Chicago Bulls shorts. This act helped calm him down. Even though it had no effect on his playing ability, it was able to give him the reassurance he needed to

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Focus & Organization: 4

The response contains an effective and relevant introduction clearly stating the thesis that people find “*comfort*” in superstitions and rituals and that they, “*fill voids of knowledge, ... help individuals understand situations and to gain confidence...*”, and to “*cope with challenges they are to face.*” The essay remains focused on these points and uses an effective organizational strategy to create a unified whole. The evidence and concepts are clarified and the relevant conclusion iterates the points from the introduction.

Development: 4

The writing accurately explains and elaborates on the well-chosen, relevant and sufficient evidence from both passages to support the ideas and thoroughly develops the specific points in the thesis. The writing demonstrates a clear and thoughtful understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 4

The writing illustrates a consistent and sophisticated command of precise language and use of imagery (*voids of knowledge; scenarios; quirks; insecurities; conquer the giant; reassurance*) as well as domain-specific vocabulary. The writing demonstrates consistent command of syntactic variety, compound and complex sentences are used. The writing establishes and maintains a formal style and an objective tone.

Conventions: 4

The writing demonstrates consistent, somewhat sophisticated command of grade-level conventions. There is the use of ellipses, and the few minor errors in spelling (*senario/scenario, upsurd/absurd*) and punctuation (*its/it's*) do not interfere with meaning. This is a low 4 in this domain.

Anchor Paper 4
Packet A Paper 17

English II

There are many reasons people around the world and throughout history believe in the power of superstitions and rituals. According to both of the passages, they can serve as anything from a common religious ritual to unique habits performed for minor events in an individual's life. For whatever the cause, these superstitions bring a certain belief that good things will be the outcome of a ritual. The power of rituals do affect us and will continue to affect us in the future.

As for why we believe in this power, there are many reasons. First, there is the calming sensation it has on us. The passage "Why Rituals Work" states that when a person is faced with a task that induces anxiety, humans have a natural reaction to perform one, it may be multiple, unique rituals that can differ from one person to another. The person's ritual generally "quells your nerves" as stated from the passage, and brings

a feeling of confidence to the cheer of the superstition.

That feeling of confidence produced from a person's ritual can serve as motivation for a greater effort in an individual's tasks. The second passage also says that rituals "improved subsequent performance". This improved performance comes from a person's inner thoughts and confidence that these superstitions can bring. The benefits these rituals can have are also improved attention and execution. These benefits are no doubt a result of the confidence a person can have from a ritual.

When it comes to superstitions in the sports world, hope and luck are usually the feelings that are wanted as an outcome. The first passage talks about the power that superstitions have over fans of sports teams, such as the Cubs. These certain fans

English II

spend years doing the same thing over and over in the hope that their team will be lucky enough to win a championship. The superstitions that are performed have a lasting effect on the door of the ritual. They bring the fan to believe that they are helping their team even though the outcome of the game is not really affected.

Lastly, people believe in the power of superstitions for many reasons that can vary greatly. From religion to sports to ordinary things that happen in everyday life, people rely on the hope, motivation and calmness that superstitions rituals bring.

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Focus & Organization: 3

The response contains a relevant introduction and thesis stating, “...*superstitions bring a certain belief that good things will be the outcome of a ritual.*” The essay uses an adequate organizational strategy. Each body paragraph follows logically and focuses on a particular point and clarifies the relationships among ideas and the evidence, creating a mostly unified whole. The conclusion is relevant but somewhat weak and does tie back to the introduction and to the points covered in the essay.

Development: 3

The writing adequately develops the body paragraph topics (*calmness, motivation, hope*), adequately explaining the relevant and sufficient evidence from the passages to support the thesis claims. The writing demonstrates a clear and sufficient understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 3

The writing illustrates a consistent use of precise language (*natural reaction, multiple, unique*). The writing also demonstrates consistent command of syntactic variety with varied beginnings and uses appropriate and varied transitional words and phrases (*First; For whatever the cause; As for why; Lastly*). The writing establishes and maintains a formal style and an objective tone.

Conventions: 3

The writing demonstrates consistent command of grade-level conventions and is virtually error free. Generally good control of capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

Anchor Paper 5
Packet A Paper 21

English II

Many people use superstitions and rituals to give an assurance of control, confidence, or luckiness. People hold "lucky" objects to help them achieve something that has slim odds of happening in their favor. This is an example of superstition. We humans use intuitive thinking to create a cause and effect situation that isn't real. However, people believe in the power of superstitions and rituals because most of the time they work!

Firstly, superstitions and rituals are the same concept. They both involve taking action into something or holding on to a relic for the intention of a certain outcome. In passage 2, the author states, "The superstitious rituals enhanced people's confidence in their abilities, motivated greater effort — and improved subsequent performance." The author says "superstitious rituals" because they are the same concepts.

The quote also states that rituals actually do have an effect on people.

Moreover, people believe in the power of superstitions because it actually has an internal effect. These rituals help to boost confidence, calm nervousness, and motivate greater efforts.

In passage 2, the author states, "People engage in rituals with the intention of achieving a wide set of desired outcomes, from reducing their anxiety to boosting their confidence..." This explains the internal effect rituals have on people which can lead to improved subsequent performances. Say, a basketball player kissed his cross necklace before every game so he can have a great performance. He will have a noticeable increase in motivation to do well because he did that superstitious ritual. Subsequently, leading to his outstanding performance.

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English II

Lastly, scientists believe that superstition can be an evolutionary advantage. The power of intuition leads to superstitious that have desired outcomes. This means that superstitions actually do have a significant influence on rational thinking. Even if the ritual is irrational, it still leads to emotional rationality. In passage 1, the author states, "Indeed, the intuitive thinking that prompts many superstitious behaviors may actually carry an evolutionary advantage." The author gets this information from Jane Risen, an associate professor of behavioral science.

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Focus & Organization: 3

The response contains a relevant introduction and thesis statement that *rituals give an assurance of control, confidence or luckiness*, and claiming that, “...people believe in the power of superstitions and rituals because they work!” The essay is missing a solid conclusion, however, it is focused on the influence of superstitions and rituals and why people believe in them. There is clarity among ideas with evidence, and unification throughout the essay and despite the lack of a conclusion the response is adequately organized.

Development: 3

The response lacks the thorough and insightful analysis of a 4 but utilizes sufficient and relevant evidence from the stimuli, throughout the essay, to adequately develop the topic. The evidence is accurately explained and adequately elaborated on demonstrating a sufficient understanding of the task and stimuli.

Language: 3

The writing illustrates consistent command of precise language (*relic, subsequent, noticeable*). The writing utilizes appropriate and varied transitional words (*however, firstly, subsequently*), and there is a consistent command of sentence variety using simple, compound, and complex sentences to maintain reader interest.

Conventions: 3

The writing demonstrates consistent command of grade-level conventions and is virtually error free. Generally good control of capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and usage.

Anchor Paper 6
Packet A Paper 19

English II

Many people do things that could be called strange before a big game or interview. Some people believe that they have been cursed. Whatever the case may be one time or another we have all done or believed the same things. As children you are told that if you do certain things, such as being good for Santa Clause, that you will be rewarded for doing them. Is this not similar to reading a bible verse before every game, or running two miles before an interview? Why do we, as intelligent humans, believe that if we do these things before something big is about to happen that we will be rewarded?

Being anxious about situations that scare us or make us excited is normal for most people. As the butterflies begin to form in our stomach we try to find ways to calm them. Eventually, we begin to think that if we do

certain actions everytime we get nervous or excited that it will help us have a good outcome. In an excerpt from "Why Rituals Work" by Francesca Gino and Michael I. Norton, the authors write, "People facing situations that induce anxiety typically take comfort in engaging in preparatory activities, inducing a feeling of being back in control and reducing uncertainty." When we start to calm down we realize that maybe if we always do this certain thing, like running, that it will calm us down everytime.

The Curse of the Billy Goat is a superstition that the Chicago Cubs will never win the World Series. This curse was put on the Chicago Cubs in 1945. The angry bar owner that cast this curse on the team had a mascot of a goat therefore, the name of the curse. The cubs had won 103 games

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English II

but Michael Pardi's said that there was doom hanging over him. An excerpt from "The Chicago Cubs, the Great Curse and the Psychological Roots of Superstition" states, "Pardi's may be sheepish about it, but when he gives in to his superstitious impulses he is acting on common psychological tendencies that are shared by a lot of other intelligent, emotionally stable adults." Then the excerpt goes on to say that many players do rituals before each game that calm them down and help them win.

Both passages state that us, as human beings, believe superstitious ideas that could be considered silly. Even grown, adults can sometimes believe them. This may be a way to cope with the fear of losing and let downs. People may believe these ideas for fun. Others may believe them because that's what they were always taught. Whatever the reason may be to believing these superstitious ideas it shows how the human mind is always thinking and changing to help.

Focus & Organization: 3

The response has an adequate introduction concerning rituals. Although the thesis statement is not clearly stated, the essay is focused on people performing rituals to “...*help us have a good outcome*”, or ...”*calm us down...*” from *being anxious about situations that scare us or make us excited...*” There is a clear and relevant concluding statement but it is weak and only vaguely ties back to the introduction’s question as to ‘why’ people believe in superstitions.

Development: 3

In spite of the fact that paragraph 3 is mostly summary of passage 1’s, *Curse of the Billy Goat*, paragraphs 2 and 4 adequately explain the evidence. And although not a particularly strong essay, the ideas are supported with sufficient and relevant evidence that is accurately explained. Overall, the response demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 3

The response demonstrates a consistent command of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary. The writing illustrates consistent command of syntactic variety including rhetorical questions in the introduction to engage the reader. A formal style and objective tone are established and maintained.

Conventions: 3

The writing demonstrates a consistent command of grade-level conventions. While the response contains occasional minor errors in usage (*us/we*) and some missing commas, they do not impede meaning.

Anchor Paper 7
Packet B Paper 2

English II

Both of the passages "The Chicago-Cubs, the Goat Curse" and "Why Rituals Work" have the same overall idea of If rituals work, why people have them, and benefits of having a ritual you perform everyday or before a big game, a date, or a work event. In the passage "Why Rituals Work" it states evidence of rituals being able to relieve stress, reduce anxiety, and help relieve grief. I myself don't have a ritual, but after reading this passage I may have to partake in practicing my own rituals.

In the passage "The Goat Curse" it also goes over the idea of superstitions. Its focus is on why we have superstitions, are they good or bad, and how to get rid of your superstitions. As for if they're good or bad that really just comes down to the person or situation.

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There are times when you can benefit from them like say you see a sketchy person standing outside of Walmart and you think they have a weapon so you don't go near them and then the next morning on the news you see there was a murder at Walmart. In that situation being superstitious just saved your life, but it could also turn out that that person you avoided was the love of your life and you may never see them again. In that situation you lost something many never find.

To me rituals and superstitions ultimately comes down to a mental aspect when it's all said and done. They can both give you that mental edge over doing something or they can do the opposite to you

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English II

and scare you to the point where you
won't do whatever it is you was going
to try which can sometimes be a good thing
if you were going to try drugs or the
action could take your life away or
put you in prison. Rituals effect others
different it may really help someone which
is really just that mental edge or it
may do nothing. If you have one I am
no way trying to discourage the use of
it if it helps it helps.

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Focus & Organization: 2

The response contains an introduction pointing out the benefits of performing rituals, and that they might relieve anxiety and grief, yet these concepts are not fully explored in the essay and the paragraph ends with the writer's personal opinion indicating a lapse in focus. The response attempts to create some unification of the ideas presented but the ideas are not completely clarified and are difficult to follow. For example, the connection of intuition and superstition to the "sketchy" person referred to in the 2nd paragraph is unclear and confusing, as is the "love of your life" reference. There is a concluding statement that ties back to the introduction but again, it is personal opinion.

Development: 2

The response refers to both passages in the introduction. However, only one passage is used in the body paragraphs and is used somewhat superficially and insufficiently to explain the "good" or the "bad" of superstitions. There is some inaccuracy or misunderstanding of passage 1, in the 2nd paragraph, alluding to "...how to get rid of your superstitions". Perhaps this refers to the "System 1, System 2 thinking", where a person simply rejects an irrational belief, but it remains unclear. Furthermore, the anecdotal evidence could be acceptable if it tied to a clear thesis statement or was supported with passage evidence, and the "mental aspect" is intriguing but lacks support from the passages. Overall, the writing partially develops the topic using insufficient text evidence demonstrating only a partial understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 2

The writing illustrates an inconsistent use of precise language (*partake, ultimately*) and uses mostly basic vocabulary, imprecise words (*something, sometimes, someone*) and no domain-specific vocabulary. The writing establishes but does not maintain a formal style and an objective tone.

Conventions: 2

The writing demonstrates an inconsistent command of grade-level conventions. There are errors in usage (*their/there, was/were, different/differently*), spelling (*practiceing/practicing, oppisite/opposite, prision/prison*), and some missing commas.

Anchor Paper 8
Packet A Paper 9

English II

Rituals and Superstitions, are become more widely known. Rituals help boost confidence before important activity taking place. Superstitions have been shown to help with awareness, and have been popularized from rumors, or other stuff spread. For centuries Superstitions like "the Curse of the Billy Goat," caused pain for the Cubs. They say that "the Curse of the Billy Goat" is why they haven't won the world Series since 1908.

DO rituals work? Some people may think so, they may think that a simple Penny in their pocket

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is good luck. Some may say that luck is not a thing but they still act upon ritual, such as praying before bed time, or reading after lunch, often people follow a pattern through out their day of repeating things even if they don't know they do. Michael Jordan wore his North Carolina shorts underneath his Chicago shorts, these rituals help boost confidence levels for some people.

Rituals and Superstitions are a part of every one whether they know it or not. People use these things for confidence boosters and it helps achieve things maybe they thought they couldn't. So that is why people believe in rituals or superstitions.

Focus & Organization: 2

The response contains a limited introduction relevant to the prompt and references both passages without specifically citing them. However, the passages are not used to establish a thesis statement thus lacking a general focus for the essay. The response attempts a thesis, stating *rituals boost confidence and superstitions help with awareness*. The introduction concludes noting the *Curse of the Billy Goat*, though, it is unclear how this reference connects back to confidence and awareness and thereby weakening the introduction. There is an organizational strategy using paragraphs, yet there is a limited conclusion, and the response lacks clarity, cohesion, and unification.

Development: 2

The body of the essay is one brief paragraph discussing, “*Do rituals work?*” and the concept of *luck*. The topic is minimally addressed and inadequately developed. The 2nd paragraph lacks sufficient clarity, and the essay uses evidence from only 1 passage (*Michael Jordan wearing his North Carolina shorts in every game*). The writing demonstrates only a partial understanding of the task.

Language: 2

The writing illustrates an inconsistent use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary (*simple penny in their pocket; other stuff spread; luck*). The writing establishes and generally maintains a formal style and an objective tone. The response illustrates inconsistent command of syntactic variety. A potentially good complex sentence in the 2nd paragraph is foiled by the lack of correct punctuation.

Conventions: 2

The writing contains errors in usage (*1st paragraph, 1st and 2nd sentences; centurys/centuries, apart/a part, every one/everyone, weather/whether, thing/things*), spelling (*widly/widely, beleive/believe, through out/throughout, chicag/Chicago*), random capitalization, and some missing commas, demonstrating an inconsistent command of grade-level conventions.

Anchor Paper 9
Packet C Paper 8

English II

People who believe in the power of superstitions & rituals are basically overthinking. In passage one, "Indeed, the intuitive thinking that prompts many superstitious behaviors may actually carry an evolutionary advantage." This sounds like it could represent overthinking. Everybody overthinks about something at one point, & overthinking too much might cause superstition. Most people believe in anything nowadays so they just decide to believe in superstition.

Most people who do rituals intend to achieve a wide set of desired outcomes as stated in paragraph ten of passage two. People form rituals all the time because they read or heard somewhere that they actually work.

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Focus & Organization: 2

The response contains a limited introduction with thesis statement, “*People who believe in the power of superstitions and rituals are basically overthinking.*” There is an attempt to organize the essay, but the repetitive and vague statements lack clarity and the response appears to have no clear conclusion.

Development: 2

The response attempts to explain the idea of overthinking and utilizes passage evidence but it is unclear how that evidence is relevant or supports the explanation. The second paragraph’s explanation of people “*who do rituals*”, is not elaborated upon or developed, rendering the entire essay inadequate and incomplete.

Language: 2

The writing illustrates inconsistent command of precise language (*everybody, something, anything, somewhere*) and is repetitious (*overthinks, overthinking*). Despite the use of compound sentences (*paragraph 1*) and a complex sentence at the end of paragraph 2, given the brevity of the response, only an inconsistent command of syntactic variety can be awarded.

Conventions: 2

With the use of the symbol + for the conjunction ‘and’, along with the occasional error in usage (*to/too*), spelling (*nowdays/nowadays*) and capitalization (*the word ‘this’ at the beginning of sentence 3*), the writing demonstrates an inconsistent command of grade-level conventions.

Anchor Paper 10
Packet A Paper 10

English II

People Believe in the Power of superstitions
and rituals because its true
religion. I believe in rituals its like
doing something so you can talk
to the dead of family members.
Superstitions is like when you are
wondering about something and
it doesn't happen. and people believe
in these things because its the way
they believe in things now a days.

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Focus & Organization: 1

The response contains an irrelevant introduction and no conclusion. There is no clear idea that is expounded on as it relates to either passage. The response demonstrates no clear focus or organizational structure.

Development: 1

The response utilizes mostly irrelevant or no evidence from the stimuli. The essay uses primarily personal opinion and does not develop any of the ideas presented. The writing is vague and unclear. The response, “*I believe in rituals its like doing something so you can talk to the dead of family members*”, demonstrates little to no understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 1

The writing illustrates little to no use of precise language or syntactic variety. The writing does not establish an objective tone and formal style.

Conventions: 1

Random capitalization, spelling errors (*now a days/nowadays, belive/believe, something/something*), an error in usage (*superstitions is*), and punctuation (*its/it's*) in a brief essay, demonstrates nothing more than a limited command of grade-level conventions.

Anchor Paper 11
Packet B Paper 12

English II

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People believe in superstition and rituals because they "recognize that their belief is irrational, but choose to acquiesce a powerful intuition" (Risen P3). People also engage in rituals with the intention of achieving a wide set of desired outcomes, from reducing their anxiety to boosting their confidence" (P10).

Most superstition is influenced by "the fact that other people believe it means that it's entertained as a possibility. For example a person pays attention to the cubs and their Curse of the Billy Goat (which dictates that the Chicago cubs will never win the World series)" (P1), "because everybody else is paying attention to it" (P4). Therefore that's why people believe in superstition and rituals work.

Focus & Organization: 1

The writing is primarily copied evidence with no clear organizational structure. The final sentence is the response's only original complete sentence making the essay scoreable.

Development: 1

Stimuli evidence is used but the response does not develop or explain the evidence adequately, demonstrating little to no understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 1

Since most of the language is taken from the stimuli, it is difficult to determine if the language is grade-level appropriate.

Conventions: 1

Although parenthesis are used for the citations, the response can demonstrate no more than a limited command of conventions given the brief amount of original writing. The responses original writing contains errors in spelling (*belive/believe, Therefore/Therefore*), and punctuation (*thats/that's, missing comma after Therefore*).

Anchor Paper 12
Packet B Paper 5

English II

† The Chicago cub keep losing there game back in the day,
Well they had a curse put on them for not winning no
games. It was october 1945 last on there team to win
the game but they lost the games. The cubs seek to end
their 108-year world series championship life out michael
jardys It's was a bad struggle.

They won 103 games in regular season they was
feeling doom. There length was long till they lose a game
The cubs won 1946, 1950 or 1960 Chicago feeling and now long
forgoten fan Daren mautynluk, 49. Michael Jordan was on the
Chicago bulls. Cho

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Focus & Organization: 1

The response contains a somewhat irrelevant introduction peripheral to the prompt and the concluding statement is wholly irrelevant. There is an attempt to organize the essay with paragraphs but the structure is unclear and the use of random sentences in this brief essay is singularly focused on the Chicago Cubs losing. Much of the writing is copied, or paraphrased inaccurately, and sometimes confusing.

Development: 1

The response uses evidence from the first passage but it is irrelevant because it is not tied or connected to any thesis statement. With the exception of Michael Jordan's name, no evidence is used from passage two. The essay inadequately and inaccurately explains the evidence provided, demonstrating little to no understanding of the topic, task, and stimuli.

Language: 1

The writing uses mostly simple sentences demonstrating little to no syntactic variety. The writing utilizes no transitional words or phrases and does not establish a formal style and objective tone.

Conventions: 1

The brief response contains capitalization errors, a sentence fragment (*2nd paragraph*), and usage errors (*it's was; they was*), demonstrating a limited command of grade-level conventions.