

Question: What is your favorite ice cream? Explain and defend why in 5-7 sentences.

Response #1: I really love chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. The reason it's my favorite is because it reminds me of when I was a kid, and it's also so delicious! People may try to argue that there are better flavors, but I'd have to politely disagree. Everyone knows cookie dough is already amazing, and when it gets added into ice cream, it becomes the very best choice there could be. It also tastes so good just on its own. So many people claim vanilla is their favorite, but then they cover it in toppings! Chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream does the job of delivering a yummy treat all on its own.

Look at your rubric for your research paper. Using "focus" and "conventions," how many points out of 20 would you give this response? Why?

Score: 18/20-20/20

Reasoning: When we are examining just the two categories of "focus" and "conventions," this is a strong response. It stays on topic the entire time, and doesn't have any glaringly obvious spelling or grammatical mistakes. Once the piece was looked at in terms of word choice, organization, transitions, and elaboration, more than likely, it would start to lose a lot of points. However, when we are isolating only those two rubric factors, it's a strong response.

Response #2: Chocolate is my favorite. I like it cuz it tastes good and if you want to switch it up a bit, you can always add toppings to it like oreos or chocolate syrup. On a really hot day, chocolate ice cream can be refreshing. It's also really great to have as a favorite because if I go out to eat, it's almost always an option for dessert at a restaurant. Chocolate is the perfect flavor for ice cream.

Look at your rubric for your research paper. Using "focus" and "conventions," how many points out of 20 would you give this response? Why?

Score: 15/20-16/20

Reasoning: As far as "focus" is concerned, this response stays purposefully focused. Every sentence traces back to the initial prompt. However, once we look at conventions, their response starts to fall apart. This would score a 6 in the conventions section. Keep in mind, a 6/10 is a 60%, which seems about right. The misspelling of words is certainly distracting, but for it to score a 5 or a 4, it would have to be so terribly misspelled and illegible that reading through it would be really confusing.

Response #3: When it comes to desserts, my very favorite is a pineapple Popsicle. Is there anything in the world that tastes as refreshing as cold fruity goodness on a hot day? Enjoying a single serving of this can send you on a tropical vacation, bringing back memories of the beach and sandy, carefree days. Any time I'm feeling particularly stressed, after school I'll always reach into the freezer and grab a pineapple Popsicle to feel momentarily blissful. This treat is heaven. Not only does it taste amazing, but the flavor is so light and crisp that it leaves me feeling revitalized every time I enjoy one!

Look at your rubric for your research paper. Using "focus" and "conventions," how many points out of 20 would you give this response? Why?

Score: 14/20

Reasoning: For conventions, this piece is really strong. Note they've even correctly capitalized "Popsicle," since it is a name brand. However, for focus, they didn't answer the question! The prompt asks them to discuss a favorite flavor of ice cream, and the response talks about a Popsicle. If the writer doesn't like ice cream, they would need to state that, so the prompt is at least referenced before they move on.