

# CUNY Assessment Test in Writing

## Practice Material

Text: “Looking Good?”

Writing Directions

Guidelines for Summaries

CATW Rubric

Sample Responses and Articulations

## Assignment

Begin by reading the passage below.

### Looking Good?

by Cleopatra McLeod

TV personality Julie Chen admitted she had cosmetic surgery to make her eyes look larger. She made the decision to alter her appearance after a TV executive refused to let her host a show because he thought her eyes made her look too exotic. Some critics have accused her of giving in to pressure to conform to public opinion. They say that women and men have a right to be accepted by society the way they are. They ask, "Who gets to decide what is beautiful?" In their view, real people come in different shapes, sizes, and colors.

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, 1.6 million cosmetic surgery procedures were performed in 2012. The most popular ones include nose reshaping and eyelid surgery. Cosmetic surgery has become a major industry. Journalist Angela Neustatter points out that it is "a tragic reflection of the values that have flooded our society." Our culture has become obsessed with beauty and youth, and bombards us with images of pretty young people. Even the weather forecaster on the news has a full head of hair thanks to his recent hair transplant, a procedure that is becoming increasingly popular among middle-aged men.

People who work in the media are not the only ones who feel pressured to look attractive by changing their appearance. This pressure affects everybody, everywhere. Research shows that physical attractiveness brings more opportunities in both work and romance. "Is it surprising then," asks Neustatter, "that so many people choose cosmetic surgery in order to compete in our world?"

But Chen asks a different question: "I wonder if I made the right decision. Did I sell out?"

### Writing Directions

Read the passage above and write an essay responding to the ideas it presents. In your essay, be sure to summarize the passage in your own words, stating the author's most important ideas. Develop your essay by identifying one idea in the passage that you feel is especially significant, and explain its significance. Support your claims with evidence or examples drawn from what you have read, learned in school, and/or personally experienced.

Remember to review your essay and make any changes or corrections that will help your reader follow your thinking. You will have 90 minutes to complete your essay.

## Guidelines for Summaries

### “Looking Good?”

In response to the writing assignment, writers may present ideas from the text in conventional summaries or throughout the response.

Writers who receive a score of 4, demonstrating competent understanding of the complexity of the ideas in the reading passage, usually refer to the following points:

- TV personality Julie Chen had cosmetic surgery to make her eyes look larger.
- Some critics have accused her of giving in to pressure to conform to public opinion. In their view, real people come in different shapes, sizes, and colors.
- Some critics say that women and men have a right to be accepted by society the way they are. They ask, “Who gets to decide what is beautiful?”
- Cosmetic surgery has become a major industry. Journalist Angela Neustatter points out that it is “a tragic reflection of the values that have flooded our society.”
- Research shows that physical attractiveness brings more opportunities in both work and romance. Neustatter asks, “Is it surprising then that so many people choose cosmetic surgery in order to compete in our world?”
- Chen asks a different question: “I wonder if I made the right decision. Did I sell out?”

Additional points that may be mentioned:

- Chen made the decision to alter her appearance after a TV executive refused to let her host a show because he thought her eyes made her look too exotic.
- According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, 1.6 million cosmetic surgery procedures were performed in 2012. The most popular ones include nose reshaping and eyelid surgery.
- Our culture has become obsessed with beauty and youth, and bombards us with images of pretty young people. Even the weather forecaster on the news has a full head of hair thanks to his recent hair transplant, a procedure that is becoming increasingly popular among middle-aged men.
- People who work in the media are not the only ones who feel pressured to look attractive by changing their appearance.

# CATW Analytic Scoring Rubric

Side B

Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text	Development of the Writer's Ideas	Structure of the Response	Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice	Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics
<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response integrates some ideas from the text with some relevant elements of the writer's reading and experience, but may do so in an uneven manner.</li> <li>The response demonstrates some understanding of the main ideas in the text, but understanding is uneven, superficial, or incomplete.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of ideas is general or uneven, but approaches to development sometimes support the clarity of the writer's ideas.</li> <li>The response uses some reasons and specific details and examples from the text and from the writer's reading and experience to develop ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response uses a basic or uneven organizational structure that sometimes supports the writer's central focus and clarity of ideas. For the most part, relevant ideas are grouped together.</li> <li>Some simple and obvious transitions are used to convey relationships among ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentence control is uneven, but there is some structural variety to support the clarity of ideas.</li> <li>Word choice is simple but usually clear enough to convey meaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Command of language is uneven. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are generally correct, but some errors are distracting and may occasionally impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is little integration of ideas from the text with elements of the writer's reading and experience.</li> <li>The response demonstrates a weak understanding of the main ideas in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of ideas is weak, and there may be little use of relevant approaches to development.</li> <li>If present, reasons, details, and examples from the text and from the writer's reading and experience are brief, general, inadequately developed, or not clearly relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response shows an attempt to create a central focus and to put related ideas together, but relationships among ideas may be unclear.</li> <li>Few, if any, transitions are used to convey relationships among ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentences demonstrate weak control, and there is little, if any, sentence variety to provide clarity.</li> <li>Word choice is simple, and sometimes meaning is not clear.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response demonstrates a weak command of language. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are sometimes correct, but errors are often distracting, and some impede understanding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is minimal, if any, integration of ideas from the text with elements of the writer's reading and experience.</li> <li>The response demonstrates little, if any, understanding of the main ideas in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is minimal or no development of ideas and little, if any, use of relevant approaches to development.</li> <li>If any reasons, details, and examples from the text or from the writer's reading and experience are present, these elements are brief, general, undeveloped, or irrelevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may be an attempt to group related ideas together, but the main focus of the response is unclear.</li> <li>Transitions are rarely used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentences demonstrate minimal or no control.</li> <li>Word choice is often unclear and often obscures meaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response demonstrates minimal command of language. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are often incorrect, and errors frequently impede understanding.</li> </ul>

# **CATW Analytic Scoring Rubric** Side A

Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text	Development of the Writer's Ideas	Structure of the Response	Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice	Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics
<p><b>6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A thoughtful and skillful response to the task effectively integrates a critical discussion of ideas in the text with relevant elements of the writer's reading and experience.</li> <li>The discussion demonstrates a thorough understanding of the main ideas and the complexity of ideas in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas are fully developed, and approaches to development (e.g., summarizing, evaluating, narrating) are used skillfully to support and convey the writer's ideas throughout the response.</li> <li>Reasons and specific details and examples from the text and from the writer's reading and experience are used effectively to develop ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization demonstrates a well-designed progression of ideas that supports the writer's central focus and the clarity of the writer's ideas throughout the response.</li> <li>Sophisticated, effective use of transitions conveys relationships among ideas throughout the response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentences are consistently well controlled, with effective variety in structure.</li> <li>Word choice is sophisticated, precise, and effectively conveys the complexity of the writer's ideas throughout the response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics, strong command of language is apparent, and meaning is clear throughout the response.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response effectively integrates a critical discussion of ideas in the text with relevant elements of the writer's reading and experience.</li> <li>The discussion demonstrates a good understanding of the main ideas and the complexity of ideas in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas are well developed, and approaches to development (e.g., summarizing, evaluating, narrating) are usually used skillfully to support and convey the writer's ideas.</li> <li>Reasons and specific details and examples from the text and from the writer's reading and experience are usually used effectively to develop ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization generally demonstrates a clear plan with some progression of ideas that supports the writer's central focus and the clarity of the writer's ideas.</li> <li>Transitions clearly convey relationships among ideas throughout the response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentences are usually well controlled, and there is some effective variety in structure.</li> <li>Word choice is usually specific and usually effective in conveying the writer's ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics, good command of language is apparent, and meaning is usually clear.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response competently integrates a critical discussion of ideas in the text with relevant elements of the writer's reading and experience.</li> <li>The discussion consistently demonstrates an understanding of the main ideas and of some of the complexity in the text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most ideas are competently developed, and approaches to development (e.g., summarizing, evaluating, narrating) are competently used to support and convey the writer's ideas.</li> <li>Reasons and specific details and examples from the text and from the writer's reading and experience are competently used to develop ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An organizational structure is evident and competently supports the writer's central focus and the clarity of the writer's ideas. Relevant ideas are grouped together, and there may be some evidence of progression of ideas.</li> <li>Though often simple and obvious, transitions are usually made to convey relationships among ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most sentences demonstrate competent control, and there is enough structural variety to support the clarity of the writer's ideas.</li> <li>Word choice is somewhat general but clearly conveys meaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language use is competent. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are generally correct, and meaning is usually clear.</li> </ul>

Begin essay on this page

According to the passage "Looking Good" by Cleopatra McLeod the author talk about the women right. TV personality Julie Chen admitted she had cosmetic surgery to make her eyes look larger. The women and men have some right to be accepted by society the way they are. The American Society of plastic surgeons, 1.6 million cosmetic surgery ~~to~~ procedures were performed in 2012. Most popular ones include nose reshaping and eyelid surgery have come a major industry. ~~people~~ people who know work in the medical are not the only ones who feel pressured to look attractive by changing their appearance.

I feel people should not going to take medicine for eyes or anything because nature is good, we should keep the way that is.

The women and should get the ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> right, I think a lot the people hear about the Title IX, the QCC have try to do something about that too, try to get the right to women, we should sport the women for sports or anything.



2A

Begin essay on this page

"Looking Good?" by Cleopatra McLeod is discussed about looking attractive. People are prefer everything which is use for beauty. "Cosmetic surgery has become a major industry." (Para 2)

When we see the article under the multiple lenses of observation, then we come to know that how physical attractiveness is important. In all fields in the society everyone prefer look beautiful because there more facilities for development in the life. "Research shows that physical attractiveness bring more opportunities in both work and romance."

In fact cosmetic surgery is one of the major source of beauty. People use the cosmetic surgery for change their shape



of face especially nose and eye lids and many more purposes.

For instance, in social media everyone wants to see beautiful girls and handsome men. Almost all users on the facebook use their good looking photos for their photo gallery and ID. In film industry, they hired only sexy and beautiful girls and handsome men, because they prefer their gesture, posture and outlook.

According to my personal experience, I always tried my best to look great when anywhere I have to go. I noticed my gesture, posture and my outlook. But I never thought out cosmetic surgery because I love natural beauty. Hence, cosmetic surgery is cause for change the natural





2c

beauty.

In conclusion, It depends that who prefer cosmetic surgery for the attractiveness. It is true that everyone wants to look good & beautiful.



Begin essay on this page

In the article "Looking Good?" Cleopatra McLeod discusses beauty and youth. The author's main points are that nowadays people tend to make a cosmetic surgery to become more beautiful and young. However, the result gives people feel pressure after changing their physical appearance. I find a significant idea of author's point is that our culture has become obsessed with beauty and youth, and bombards us with images of pretty young people.

It is surprising that women and men and sometimes younger people try to change their face by the surgery. Cleopatra McLeod states that "...increasingly popular among middle-aged men". In our days men also want to look better. The author provides us an example that shows "...feel pressured to look attractive by changing their appearance". The writer argues that people are not happy with their new looking, they feel



more pressure.

Making a cosmetic surgery could require more money. People do not have such a amount of money to pay.

We do not see all people who do a cosmetical surgery only who has money. The author says "the weather forecaster". These people want to get attention too.

People shouldn't do a cosmetic surgery because it is not comfortable to communicate. The author says "real people come in different shapes, sizes and colors". It is hard to behave with these people because they ~~are~~ <sup>could be</sup> older than us, but we don't know, they look still younger. It gives us also pressure. For example I know a person who did a cosmetic surgery, but I can say this lady younger than her friends. She looks "very young almost her daughter's age. Also This lady acts if she was 18 years old. Why do people



3c

can go whatever they have, their shape of face, sizes, colors. When I was in my country I used to hear a radio. There was a program<sup>called their voice</sup> to discuss people who change their body. They all the time told that people should be seen as they were before.

People get more health problems if the cosmetic surgery doesn't fully cured. For example, I read a newspaper Daily News which had a middle-aged lady who had a nose reshaping and it didn't healed completely. After a while, she died. It could be dangerous besides the beauty.

In short, people need to think before the cosmetic surgery because it may be harmful to their feeling, health and it may be not comfortable other people.



4A

Begin essay on this page

In "Looking Good" by Cleopatra McLeod, we are told that the new culture is to be attractive at the workplace and in romance. Cleopatra mentions "bombards us with images of pretty young people". Because of our current culture middle aged adults are pressured into changing their physical appearance to maintain their youthful looks.

Chen admits she had cosmetic surgery because a TV executive refused to allow Chen to host a show one day. His reason is because "her eyes made her look too exotic". When you are pressured, even at work, to look a certain way, sometimes you need to alter yourself to get what you truly want. That's what Chen thought at first. Chen was then criticized that she gave in to "public opinion". No one is an expert on beauty. As mentioned by Cleopatra "real people come in different shapes, sizes, and colors". There can be no true definition of beauty when there are people from different backgrounds and cultures where beauty is seen differently.

Cleopatra mentions "research shows that physical



Attractiveness brings more opportunities in both work and romance". This is a universal pressure that "affects everybody, everywhere". When a pressure such as this exists you can make the decision to not alter yourself. However, research has shown that when you have a certain look you are offered more opportunities and have a higher chance of meeting a partner to engage in a romantic relationship.

These pressures are real and true. A female with a toned body and long hair is more likely to get attention from guys than a thicker, less worked girl. The girl who does not have a "nice body" would be seen as unattractive and be told she needs to alter her appearance if she expects to meet a life long partner. A guy is also under a lot of pressure. The guy needs to have a well paying job, be physically fit, have a clean shaven look, be muscular and should be caught up with the latest fashion trends. Without these qualities you would be deemed unfit for anyone's expectations or worth their time.

Cleopatra' raises a very true and realistic pressure that exists in America. Americans have to make a choice,



(4c)

be original and stick to your own ideals of beauty or  
follow the crowd and submit yourself to the public  
opinion of how you should look.



Begin essay on this page

Cosmetic Surgery has become the norm for many because they want to live up to an <sup>unattainable</sup> image. TV personality Julie Chen fell prey to this belief that changing the shape of her eyes would make her fit in. Too many people believe that they are imperfect and that plastic surgery is the way <sup>out</sup> to go a way to fit in.

Society has become obsessed with obtaining the fountain of youth, whether it be the use of cosmetic surgery, or creams, diets and fitness regimens. We are constantly being bombarded with ads telling us what we should look like, what someone else's view of beauty is. TV personality Julie Chen fell prey to this belief, that changing the shape of her eyes would make her fit in. Nonetheless too many people focus on their imperfections and not the beauty they have within.

Being refused to host a show because of her exotic look, caused Julie Chen to turn to the extremes of plastic surgery. Chen gave in to the pressures of public <sup>opinion</sup> where she was expected to look <sup>and act</sup> a certain way. Is there such a thing as looking too exotic? What is true beauty? It is said





that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.

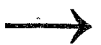
The focus of our society on physical attractiveness has created ~~a~~ obsessed young people with different ~~addictions~~ and ~~a~~ warped views of what true beauty is. My <sup>fifteen year old Abigail</sup> daughter has a gap in her front ~~teeth~~ that has bothered her for years, mainly because she was told that something was wrong with having a gap, being told this not by her dentist but by uneducated bystanders. You see, at fifteen she still has baby teeth that are due to come up and putting in braces or any other procedure would prevent her teeth from growing properly. Knowing this has empowered her, she smiles ~~so~~ widely showing her gap every time and she has a presence and confidence like no other. Abigail in fact has focused on her inner beauty and it shines through.

The norm now of using cosmetic surgery, diets, fitness regimens, creams and any other form of enhancement, in essence creating the perfect body, ~~is~~ <sup>this</sup> and will always be unattainable, as long as we are not happy ~~with~~ with our selves and enjoy the beauty we have inside.



5c

falling prey to popular opinion only benefits  
the corporations who make loads of  
money from ~~the~~ selling us useless products.  
It's why so much money is spent advertising  
to the youth <sup>to tell</sup> ~~and~~ them ~~know~~ <sup>that</sup> something is  
wrong with how they look and give them  
an ad to show them how to fix that  
flaw. People just need to know that. Beauty  
is in the eye of the beholder.



In response to Julie Chen's cosmetic eye surgery, which succeeded in making her eyes appear larger, critics have asked the question, "who gets to decide what is beautiful?" The passage states that in 2012 1.6 million cosmetic surgeries took place, eyelid surgery being the most popular. Journalist Angela Neustatter explained this to be "a tragic reflection of the values that have flooded our society." ~~Author~~ Author Cleopatra McLeod hoped to convey through her passage "Looking Good?" that the struggle workers in the media have to "look good" affects everyone, everywhere.

Why does Journalist Angela Neustatter view these "values" to be tragic? Throughout history, probably since the formation of society, individuals have strived for beauty. Why? Because the majority of individuals place beauty on a pedestal and deem it a value. What we see today is only a reflection of the values that have always existed in our society.

It is important to understand why the beauty and youth we see all around us is a problem all of a sudden. It is a fact that we



would rather see, as McLeod put it, "a weather forecaster with a head full of hair." To conceal one's insecurities in the face of the world today is to save the embarrassment for him and the second-hand embarrassment for his viewers. When someone in the media appears on television he represents the beauty of the human being and therefore must do so to his fullest capacity. For example, the president of North Korea appeared in front of his people limping and looking ill. For them it was shocking to see the leader of their nation falling to his knees in front of them, so to speak. Would America love to see the leader of their great nation give a speech as he was when he just got out of bed. No, because it would be embarrassing for all of us and disgusting to see ~~dry~~ dried dried and crust in his eyes. The people of every nation would rather see their leader in all his royal splendor. Yes, these ~~appearances~~ appearances affect everybody but it is not "pressure" but a reflection of our admiration.

When TV personality Julie Chen expanded her eyelids she was simply expressing the pressure she had on herself to represent her



6c

viewers. We, in turn, look at how we hold her higher than ourselves through her physical appearance and aspire to exact that beauty. Beauty, is in the eye of the beholder and our celebrities look really good. So, no, Angela Neustatter, we are not pressured to look good we do it of our own accord.



## Scoring Articulations

### “Looking Good?”

**Paper 1      Scores: 1 1 1 1 1**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** The response demonstrates minimal understanding of the reading passage. The writer appears to think that “the author talk about the women right.”

**Development of the Writer’s Ideas:** Development of the writer’s idea is minimal. Most of the half-page-long response comes directly from the passage.

**Structure of the Response:** Even though the writer uses paragraph structure, the relationships among ideas remain unclear.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** Most sentences are copied from the passage, and the ones that are original demonstrate only weak control of language: “I feel people should not going to tak meds for eyes. Or anything because nature is good, we should keep the way that is.”

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** Language control is minimal.

**Paper 2      Scores: 2 2 3 2 2**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** The response demonstrates some understanding of the text, but weakness in language use impacts the scores in all domains.

**Development of the Writer’s Ideas:** The writer’s attempts to engage the reading and develop his or her ideas are hindered by problems with language: “According to my personal experience, I always tried my best to look great when anywhere I have to go. I noticed my gesture, posture and my outlook.”

**Structure of the Response:** There is an attempt to group ideas together, and scorers may acknowledge the beginning-middle-end structure of the response by awarding the score of 3 rather than 2 in this domain.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** Word choice is simple, and sentence control is quite weak: “In conclusion, It depends that who prefers cosmetic surgery for the attractiveness.”

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** The response demonstrates a weak control of language even though the errors, for the most part, do not obscure meaning: “People are prefer everything which is use for beauty.”

**Paper 3      Scores: 3 3 3 3 3**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** The response demonstrates understanding of the reading and offers a critical discussion of the health risks and other side effects of cosmetic surgery. Unfortunately, consistent and, at times, rather serious problems with language impede communication and affect all domains. A response that exhibits language weakness of this severity cannot be deemed “competent” in any category.

**Development of the Writer’s Ideas:** The writer looks at the issue of cosmetic surgery from different angles and uses several examples to illustrate his or her points. The idea that “it is hard to behave with these people because they could be older than us, but we don’t know, they look still younger” adds an original and entertaining twist to the discussion, but problems with language prevent the response from earning a score higher than 3.

**Structure of the Response:** The writer uses paragraphs and tries to group relevant ideas together, but there are lapses. The organizational structure is basic and uneven.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** The response, while engaged with the topic, is characterized by inaccurate or imprecise word choice and shaky sentence structure and grammar even though most errors do not impede understanding: “The writer argues that people are not happy with their new looking, they feel more pressure.”

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** Language use is uneven. The response contains numerous errors that are distracting: “People get more health problem if the cosmetic surgery doesn’t fully cured.”

**Paper 4      Scores: 4 4 4 4 4**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** This response is competent. It demonstrates understanding of the reading passage and offers clear, straightforward commentary on the points the author makes: “Cleopatra raises a very true and realistic pressure that exists in America. Americans have to make a choice, be original and stick to your own ideals of beauty or follow the crowd and submit yourself to the public opinion of how you should look.”

**Development of the Writer’s Ideas:** Even though the writer does not dwell in great detail on any one point she makes in reference to the text, the use of detail is fully competent: “A guy is also under a lot of pressure. The guy needs to have a well paying job, be physically fit, have a clean shaven look, be muscular and should be caught up with the latest fashion trends.”

**Structure of the Response:** Even though the response does not seem to progress from one idea to the next, it maintains focus on the idea that “middle aged adults are pressured into changing their physical appearance to maintain their youthful looks” and provides a clearly structured discussion.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** Language use is competent. Word choice clearly conveys meaning, and sentences demonstrate competent control.

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** In spite of a few errors, language use is competent.

**Paper 5      Scores: 5 5 5 5 5**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** This response demonstrates good understanding of the reading and integrates an effective, albeit brief, discussion. Please note that the writer acknowledges the reading by discussing Julie Chen, one of the subjects interviewed in the reading, even though the response does not include the author's name or title of the reading passage. Such disregard for academic conventions is common in placement exams and should not be confused with a failure to acknowledge the text.

**Development of the Writer's Ideas:** The response may be brief, but it is effective. The personal narrative used to illustrate the importance on focusing on one's "inner beauty" effectively supports the writer's ideas.

**Structure of the Response:** There is a clear organizational structure and progression of ideas.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** Sentence structure is varied and well controlled, if not flawless. Word choice is precise and effective. The writer communicates her ideas with ease.

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** Even though the writer's attempt to use sophisticated sentences and vocabulary is not error-free, good command of language is apparent: "Society has become obsessed with obtaining the fountain of youth, whether it be the use of a cosmetic surgery, or creams, diets and fitness regiments." Such errors are by no means frequent, and the score of 4 would be inappropriately harsh.

**Paper 6      Scores: 6 6 6 6 6**

**Critical Response to the Writing Task and the Text:** This insightful, well-written response integrates a detailed summary with astute and fully developed observations on the issue of beauty. The writer's argument against the text's assertion that our cultural focus on beauty is "tragic" is thoughtful, original, and well-supported.

**Development of the Writer's Ideas:** The response uses specific details to support a controversial position. North Korea's president effectively communicates the idea that people "would rather see their leader in all his royal splendor," not ill and limping.



**Structure of the Response:** There is a clear organizational structure and progression of ideas. The entire response is tightly structured. One sentence easily transitions to the next.

**Language Use: Sentences and Word Choice:** Sentence structure is varied and consistently well controlled. Word choice is precise and sophisticated. The writer communicates her ideas with ease and is confident enough to be creative. The term “second-hand embarrassment” in the context of the balding TV weatherman is a delightful example of the writer’s language skills.

**Language Use: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:** There are very few errors. “So, no, Angela Neustatter, we are not pressured to look good we do it of our own accord.” The missing punctuation mark here might be viewed as a minor cosmetic imperfection. Overall, language command is superior.