Argument Essay: Family Matters

**Task:** Write an argumentative essay that takes a clear position on this question: what is the function of family in American culture today? Develop your essay with either a **compare-contrast** or **definition/description** method of development, or a combination of both.

**Purpose:** You are writing to demonstrate **critical thinking** and writing in response to the prompt question. In addition to the **development and complexity** of you **thesis** and **line of reasoning**, your essay will be evaluated on:

* The strength of your evidence and commentary
* Effective introductory and conclusion paragraph
* The style and accuracy of conventions in your writing.

**Guidelines:** For our purposes, please construct your essay to the following specifications:

● The maximum word limit is 750.

● Your essay must be typed, double-spaced in 12 pt font and use a MLA heading and page numbers.

**Outside sources:** none permitted; this is in part to prepare you for the timed argument essay on the AP Exam.

**Essay due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **THESIS** | |
| **0 points** | **1 point** |
| For any of the following:   * There is no defensible thesis. * The intended thesis only restates the prompt. * The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim. * There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt. | Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position. |

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| **EVIDENCE AND COMMENTARY** | | | | |
| **0 points** | **1 point** | **2 points** | **3 points** | **4 points** |
| Simply restates thesis OR  Repeats provided information OR  Provides other information irrelevant to the prompt | Provides little evidence that is mostly general  AND  Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the argument. | Provides some specific relevant evidence  AND  Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student’s argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty. | Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning  AND  Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning. | Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning  AND  Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning. |

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| **SOPHISTICATION** | |
| **0 points** | **1 point** |
| For any of the following:   * Significant errors in proofreading * Accurate proofreading but otherwise does not meet the criteria for 1 point | Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation. |

**(Score \_\_\_\_/6 ) x 5 = Overall Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30**