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 ORRepeats provided information ORProvides other information irrelevant to the prompt | Provides little evidence that is mostly generalANDSummarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the argument. | Provides some specific relevant evidenceANDExplains 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 reasoningAND Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning. | Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoningANDConsistently 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**