The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.
# Scoring Guide

## Score & Description

### Excellent
- Takes a clear position and supports it consistently with well-chosen reasons and/or examples; may use persuasive strategy to convey an argument.
- Is focused and well organized, with effective use of transitions.
- Consistently exhibits variety in sentence structure and precision in word choice.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation are few and do not interfere with understanding.

### Skillful
- Takes a clear position and supports it with pertinent reasons and/or examples through much of the response.
- Is well organized, but may lack some transitions.
- Exhibits some variety in sentence structure and uses good word choice; occasionally, words may be used inaccurately.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation do not interfere with understanding.

### Sufficient
- Takes a clear position and supports it with some pertinent reasons and/or examples; there is some development.
- Is generally organized, but has few or no transitions among parts.
- Sentence structure may be simple and unvaried; word choice is mostly accurate.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation do not interfere with understanding.

### Uneven
May be characterized by one or more of the following:
- Takes a position and provides uneven support; may lack development in parts or be repetitive OR response is no more than a well-written beginning.
- Is organized in parts of the response; other parts are disjointed and/or lack transitions.
- Exhibits uneven control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; may exhibit some inaccurate word choices.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation sometimes interfere with understanding.

### Insufficient
May be characterized by one or more of the following:
- Takes a position but response is very undeveloped.
- Is disorganized or unfocused in much of the response OR clear but very brief.
- Minimal control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; word choice may often be inaccurate.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation interfere with understanding in much of the response.

### Unsatisfactory
May be characterized by one or more of the following:
- Attempts to take a position (addresses topic) but position is very unclear OR takes a position, but provides minimal or no support; may only paraphrase the prompt.
- Has little or no apparent organization.
- Minimal or no control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; word choice may be inaccurate in much or all of the response.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation severely impede understanding across the response.
Excellent - Student Response

1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.
Inventions are designs and ideas people have come up with to make people’s lives easier. Big or small, inventions have impacted the way I live my everyday life. When asking whether it’s the bigger inventions or the smaller ones that made a difference, it’s the bigger ones because they have affected my life as the name implies in “bigger” ways. Computers, cars, and televisions are just a few of the many big inventions that change my life for the better.

I was absent from school one day and was at a loss for the homework assignments and quizzes given out. I called my friend and she told me that we had a biology exam tomorrow. I panicked because I didn’t have any of the notes. My friend scanned the notes and e-mailed me her notes. Within seconds my fears of failing the exam vanished because now I had a resource to study from. The computer resolved the trouble of me having to drive to my friend’s house and handwriting the notes. The computer saved a lot of time and effort and helped me directly focus faster on what mattered—studying.

Transportation is essential in a person’s life. Work, school, and home is unfortunately not
situated in the same block, requiring that some means of movement be met. Cars attested to this need, and because a fast and efficient way of getting around. It opened up businesses boosting up an economy I am part of today.

Television is an invention that provides entertainment. It's a means through which I can relax after a hard, grueling day at school. It's a form of information through its various documentaries and news reports. Most importantly, the television is a place my family gathers around on Friday nights to watch a movie. This invention has become a symbol of togetherness for my family.

Inventions truly do what they say because the big inventions such as computers, cars, and televisions have affected my life through many different means. It's made my life easier, more efficient, and more open to the information the world has to offer. It's these qualities that make the big inventions so big.

Scorer Comments:
“Excellent” responses present information with descriptive, well-chosen details throughout. This response is focused and well-organized by the use of an introduction, which presents each invention that will be discussed. The student sustains controlled support across the response and effectively makes use of transitions.

**Skillful - Student Response**

1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.
Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.

Personally, I like the "Big Inventions" like the computer, microwave, iPods, and cell phones, are better. These few items play a major role in daily living. The computer, for example, is a great way to access any questions that are unanswered. It's also great because a very high percent of colleges recommended students to have a laptop to make school work a little easier.

It's a main source of high school work getting done. The computer also allows us to shop without leaving our home, instead of going out wasting gas standing in lines that seem to go on forever. We have a convenient high powered computer that allows us to see the world metaphorically. Speaking, without ever having to leave the surroundings of our own home.

The other big help in today's living is the microwave. Before the microwaves there were fires to cook on, then ovens that took forever to cook a Christmas dinner that now right before our eyes we have a little box that can cook food & defrost food in less time than an oven. Me personally, when
Cell phones have become one of the most needed necessities in modern living. More than half the population has a cell phone. It complete a list of tasks by using one. But as the years go by, the cell phone becomes more high tech, now you can take pictures and send them to whomever you want, videos also. You can listen to over 1,000 songs while walking down the street. Then flip the switch and take a call. I think that sooner or later big inventions are gonna be the only inventions for modern living.

Scorer Comments:
“Skillful” responses develop and shape information with detail in parts of the response. This response is organized and exhibits sentence variety and some good word choice; however, a lapse in continuity exists between the descriptions of each invention used as an example for support. There are some errors in grammar and usage, but they do not interfere with understanding.

Sufficient - Student Response
1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.
Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.

Small inventions, as opposed to big ones, definitely play a larger role in my life. For example, the chair. Probably at least half my day or twelve hours, I am sitting in some kind of seat, chair, or bench. I use it everyday. I sit in one during class, at lunch, when I drive in the driver’s seat, and at home doing homework or eating at the dining table. Even in leisure time when watching tv, it is useful. Many people take these great inventions for granted because we use them so casually everyday that we do not realize how great they are. A pen is also another great "small" invention that I use everyday. I use it for everything because, being a teenager in school, it is constantly a necessity that is used for tests, homework, notes, or reminders. Binders and folders are also small inventions that are used so much more in my daily life than the big inventions such as television. Television and computers are things
Scorer Comments:
“Sufficient” responses provide information that is generally related, but there are few to no transitions. This response offers some extension in the details regarding “small” inventions, such as the chair or pen. Overall, this response contains simple word choice.

Uneven - Student Response

1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.
The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Every day we use the inventions, the big and the small. In my daily life I use both the big and the small inventions.

Every day I use the "big" inventions like the oven, microwave, television, and computers. Usually everyday after school I come home and do something in the microwave. Then I turn on the television to watch a little TV. Once I'm done eating I go and get on the computer.

Everyday I also use the "small" inventions. At school I use pens and calculators for school work. Even at work I use them.

In conclusion, we use "big" and "small" inventions just about everyday.

Scorer Comments:
"Uneven" responses provide some clear information, but they are often undeveloped and disjointed. This response presents some different pieces of information about big and small inventions, but errors in spelling and the lack of control over sentence boundaries sometimes interfere with understanding.

Insufficient - Student Response
1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as
I think that the bigger inventions are more important than the smaller ones. The bigger ones are more important because they are more valuable. They can be used better than the smaller ones.

For an example an television can be used for entertainment. Another example is an telephone. A telephone can used for communication. Telephones are also used for communications in case of emergencies. Some smaller inventions are important also like calculators. Calculators are used to help people add up things. These are my opinions on which inventions are more important.

Scorer Comments:
“Insufficient” responses attempt to provide information on big or small inventions with minimal support for development. This response is too brief to detect any significant organization and is list-like.

Unsatisfactory - Student Response

1. The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.
Big inventions are the best because there are many useful things that will help our community. Things that will develop a new century with great ideas. Also the internet is really helpful as well. Microwave, television are a great factor for communication. Everything is electronic now.

Scorer Comments:
“Unsatisfactory” responses offer very minimal information or no coherent writing. This response exhibits no apparent organization and offers only brief mention that big inventions are more important and useful.
2007 National Performance Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percentage of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uneven</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skillful</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
- These results are for public and nonpublic school students.
- Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**Persuasive Writing**

Persuasive writing emphasizes the reader. Its primary aim is to influence others to take some action or to bring about change. Persuasive writing may contain much information — facts, details, examples, comparisons, statistics, or anecdotes. Its main purpose, however, is not simply to inform but to persuade. This type of writing involves a clear awareness of what arguments might most affect the audience being addressed. Writing persuasively also requires the use of critical thinking skills such as analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation.

Persuasive writing is called for in a variety of situations. It may involve responding to a request for advice by giving an opinion and providing sound reasons to support it. It may also involve presenting an argument in such a way that a particular audience will find it convincing. When there is opposition, persuasive writing may entail refuting arguments that are contrary to the writer's point of view.

In all persuasive writing, authors must choose the approach they will use. They may, for instance, use emotional or logical appeals or an accommodating or demanding tone. Regardless of the situation or approach, persuasive writers must be concerned with having a particular desired effect upon their readers, beyond merely adding to knowledge of the topic presented.