Essay Prompt:

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

It seems that we are always ready to justify our own actions and overlook our own errors. Why, then, are we so unwilling to judge others in the same way? We tend to hold others to very high, even unrealistic standards, expecting them to be always right, always honest, or always conscientious. All of us have personal flaws and shortcomings that we are quite willing to excuse. Surely we should be more willing to excuse such shortcomings in others.

Assignment: Should people be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others?

Review Scored Anchor Papers

The pre-scored essays on the following pages (pages 16–33) are in rank order from highest to lowest scores (6 to 1). These anchor papers give a strong impression of the comparative differences in the scores for the given essay prompt. These papers have also been annotated to demonstrate aspects of the SAT Essay Scoring Guide.

To Do:

- Read the essay prompt above.
- Read the pre-scored anchor papers (pages 16–33). Also read the annotation that is provided at the end of each essay.
I believe that one's ability to judge another for his/her shortcomings is beneficial to society as a whole. While it is true that an individual may be upset by the remarks of his/her peer, the same individual may come to overcome the above-stated issue and become a stronger person with a more powerful character. However, if one's actions were never critiqued, he/she would never have the experience to perform at a higher level in the future.

This, I believe, is the fundamental basis of the United States government. The entire idea of a three-branch government is the concept of criticism. It is imperative that one man/institution cannot enforce his/her fit way on a general population without the consent of others. Such government must be challenged. For example, the absolute monarchy of King Louis XVI did not benefit the people of France. This wielding of ultimate power led to his downfall, as from the ashes of tyranny, the French Revolution was born; Louis XVI was beheaded, and he ultimately lost all that he had controlled. Yet in the U.S., a democratic republic, no large-scale rebellion was ever engendered, as fair government is the right of an individual or group to criticize those who lead.

In the case of an individual, criticism is even more important. The flaws of a person, if uncorrected, remain a barrier in the said person's moral development. In fact, one accepts the judgement of others truly benefits, and is now has a higher understanding of themselves and their weaknesses. While
it may be true that criticism of an exaggerated nature may be unproductive, constructive criticism is what has allowed humanity to grow. However, a person cannot grow by himself. It is true that it is not in a man’s nature to understand his own shortcomings without the guidance of another, be it a mentor, a peer, or a student. This is why humanity has adapted to seek the shortcomings in others, as with guidance, one can reach fantastic goals and accomplish amazing feats.

Also, there are those who would prefer that an individual remain unchallenged in his/her actions, in order to preserve the emotional stability of the said individual. This is understandable. But in return, I ask this: why have those who succeeded in life understood their failures, yet those who refuse to accept failure remain intellectually static, without any intellectual progress? Is it not our failures that provide us a future, our criticism of another that allows him/her to grow? As Thomas Edison famously said, "I discovered one thousand ways not to make a lightbulb, but I needed only one way that worked." Every failure that is accepted is a success and a milestone of our moral/ intellectual achievement. Criticism is the connection.

Annotation for Paper G:

Score of 6
This essay demonstrates outstanding critical thinking by effectively and insightfully developing its point of view (... if one’s actions were never critiqued, he/she would never have the experience to perform at a higher level) and supporting the position with clearly appropriate reasoning and other evidence drawn from history. Well organized and focused on the idea that “those who refuse to accept failure remain intellectually static,” the essay exhibits clear coherence and progression of ideas (The entire idea of a three-branch government is the concept of criticism. It is imperative that one man/institution cannot enforce his/her/its way on a general population. ... the absolute monarchy of King Louis XVI did not benefit the people of France. This wielding of ultimate power led to his downfall, as from the ashes of tyranny, the French Revolution was born). The essay exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate and apt vocabulary, and displays meaningful variety in sentence structure (This is why humanity has adapted to seek the shortcomings in others, as with guidance, one can reach fantastic goals and accomplish amazing feats. Alas, there are those who would prefer that an individual remain unchallenged in his/her actions, in order to preserve the emotional stability of the said individual). Demonstrating clear and consistent mastery, this essay merits a score of 6.
Everybody has flaws, and everybody overlooks the
errof their ways in some way or another. It is
simply human nature. However, if people are willing to
excuse their own flaws, then they should be willing to
excuse the flaws of others, as it is only fair. We can
understand this thesis through examining my observations
of my father’s character.

Throughout my childhood, I idolized my father. He was
a demi-god, my hero, perfection itself. However, as I grew
into the uncomfortable stages of adolescence, it dawned on
me that my father was not perfect, after all. The characteristic
about him that bothered me the most was his lack of spirit.
I began to realize that he always seemed tired and drained; he
was not as loving towards my family as he used to be. During
breakfast for example, he would snap at my little sister for
talking with her mouth full, or simply eat but not make
any friendly conversation.

I admit, I was quick to judge my father. I expressed my
resentment of his character to my mother, expecting her to
sympathize with me. However, her response both surprised
me and calmed me down. “Sometimes the flaw you see
in others is the flaw you must see in yourself.” It was as
if a murky cloud lifted from my eyes, and I could see, again,
her response made me realize that I had a lot of introspection
to do. I sat down with myself and evaluated my character. Behold—
Annotation for Paper H:

Score of 6
Demonstrating outstanding critical thinking, this essay effectively and insightfully develops its point of view (…if people are willing to excuse their own flaws, then they should be willing to excuse the flaws of others, as it is only fair) and supports the position with a clearly appropriate personal narrative. Well organized and focused on the idea that the writer disliked in her father the exact flaws she “dreaded most” in herself, the essay exhibits clear coherence and progression of ideas (I saw my father’s lack of spirit and lashed out at it, because this was the exact characteristic I dreaded most about myself. I was quick to judge him, while I overlooked my own errors completely. After conversing with my mother, I realized that it was quite unjust to hold my father to such a high standard while I myself was committing the same “crime” as him. It is only fair to excuse the actions or behavior of others, especially when we sometimes exhibit the same flaws. Maybe if we stop holding people on such high pedestals then the emotional gap between us would be less, and we could understand and accept each other more. And maybe then after we face each other will acceptance and sincerity, we can truly start building strong, lasting relationships with those we love.) This essay demonstrates skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary, and displays meaningful variety in sentence structure (Throughout my childhood, I idolized my father. He was a demi-god, my hero, perfection itself. However, as I grew into the uncomfortable stages of adolescence, it dawned on me that my father was not perfect, after all). This essay exhibits clear and consistent mastery and earns a score of 6.
The best advice I ever received from my father, only five words long was, "Everybody's different, and nobody's perfect." Every time I would vent to him about an irritating friend, an unpleasant teacher, or a current world issue he would calmly remind me, "Faye, everybody's different. Nobody's perfect." It is important to remember that while everyone strives for success, everyone also comes up short. It is not only hypocritical, but also just plain immature to magnify everyone else's flaws while simply denying your own. Instead of doing this, we should embrace everyone's unique talents and use them to bring joy, not judgment into the lives of our community.

One particular area of my life that has received a lot of criticism is my faith. Sure, at school, Christianity is embraced, but out in the real world, I have been accused of being judgmental of non-Christians. It seems as though ever since the Crusades and the dreaded Orthodox Church of Europe in the 1400s, Christianity has earned itself a bad name, full of hypocrisy and hate. I feel as if society has pinpointed the negatives about Christianity and blinded themselves to the positives. Jesus healed hundreds of people from physical and spiritual ailments. Mother Teresa traveled around the world healing people of their emotional burdens. And without the Protestant rebellion in Europe, that led to the settlement of this country, the United States of America would cease to exist. Those that attack Christianity for being judgmental are really unaware that they are being judgmental about Christians themselves. Those people should stop being
Annotation for Paper I:

Score of 5

Exhibiting strong critical thinking, this well-organized essay effectively develops the point of view that “It is not only hypocritical, but also just plain immature to magnify everyone else’s flaws while simply denying your own.” The writer supports her position with appropriate reasons and examples drawn from personal experience, observation and the history of Christianity. Focused on its argument, the response displays coherence and progression of ideas (…ever since the Crusades and the dreaded Orthodox Church of Europe in the 1400’s, Christianity has earned itself a bad name, full of hypocrisy and hate. I feel as if society has pin-pointed the negatives about Christianity and blinded themselves to the positives). The essay exhibits facility in the use of language and variety in sentence structure (…no longer will we kill people who kill people to show people that killing people is wrong. Much like racism or discrimination, this epidemic of hate should be replaced with compassion and unity). To earn a 6, the writer could offer a more nuanced analysis, perhaps by considering why people focus on the negatives of others, instead of asserting what people “should” do. Overall, this essay demonstrates reasonably consistent mastery and merits a score of 5.
There are few people on this planet who can boast their own perfection. All of us have flaws, shortcomings, and have reaped the fruits of our own errors. We know that no one is perfect and surely as we know that we, ourselves, are not perfect, but why do we often give ourselves the benefit of the doubt, and treat others’ failings with contempt? Is this right? Should we not treat others with the same stoicism that we treat ourselves?

Certainly there are people in this world who treat failings, flawed friends, with generous portions of patience, but for many it is difficult to forgive others their errors. Perhaps the reason that we do this, even if it is done subconsciously, is that we assume we know everything about everyone—when we make errors, we know all the situations and experiences that have affected us, whether they be of our own making or not. Often, we are so blinded by the assumption of knowledge that we remain totally unaware of the reasons behind another’s failings. We assume we know all there is to know about others through such vehicles as experience, stereotypes, and gossip. Some of these are valid reasons to judge another person’s character, but otherwise not; because of this, we ought to give others the benefit of the doubt. Shouldn’t we?

Another cause of our own unexcusing

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE IF NECESSARY.
Annotation for Paper J:

Score of 5
Demonstrating strong critical thinking, this essay effectively develops a point of view that though there “may be great reasons” to judge others, it is best to follow the “Golden Rule,” and provides appropriate reasoning to support the position. Well organized, the essay exhibits coherence and progression of ideas. . . . people often view themselves in harsher light than others. . . . We constantly compare ourselves to others, be they television or movie stars, famed recording artist, or our high schools’ resident “It Girl,” we often compare our worst with their best. . . . This makes our shortcomings less condemnable, but creates a rougher landing for them when they fall. But there are other voices at play. The third culprit behind this mindset is jealousy—we see the people who seem flawless get caught in error and subconsciously blow their flaws out of proportion. Why do we do this? Because, again, subconsciously, we want to be superior over them.

While these may be great reasons to be quick to judge others, the choice is ultimately ours as you would have them do unto you.”
People should be willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others. Tornay times in our world today people are punished or looked down upon for their flaws, but the ones who are looking down on them have just as many flaws as they do.

One example of someone not excusing the flaws of another while forgetting their own flaws is evident in the movie "Aangry Men." A boy is on trial for murdering his father. Everyone on the jury has found him innocent except for one person. This man has no reason for his conviction. The man who is voting guilty was beat up by his son and hasn’t spoken to his since. This is the reason he is voting guilty. He is still holding onto the memory of his son. He never thinks that it is a different person, his son, who votes guilty because of his own errors that he’s resolved. He looks past his errors and explains the boy’s errors.

Another example is the relationship between Willy and Biff in "Death of a Salesman." Willy pushes Biff to do well in life and become successful to a new extreme. He holds Biff to a very high standard and wants him to be just like him, but in reality Willy is not successful. Willy looks past his own errors and gets angry at Biff for Biff’s errors. Willy lies to his family about his job and the money he has to cover up his own errors but still fights with Biff about Biff’s flaws. If Willy wouldn’t have pushed Biff so hard and excused his errors Biff would probably have done well in life.

In "The Adventures of Huckle Finn" the slaves are persecuted and seen as unintelligent and low. This shows how people excuse their own errors but exploit others because the white people that look down on the slaves have had the same amount of education as the slaves. The slaves are ldap
Annotation for Paper K:

Score of 4

Demonstrating competent critical thinking, this essay develops a point of view (People should be willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others) and supports the position with adequate examples taken from American literature and film. Generally organized around its examples, the essay exhibits some coherence and progression of ideas (Willy pushes Biff to do well in life and become successful to a new extreme...Willy looks past his own errors and gets angry at Biff for Biff's errors). The essay displays adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language. Although there is variety in sentence structure, errors occur in sentence formation (He never thinks that it is a different person, not his son, he votes guilty because of his own errors that he never resolved). To earn a higher score, the writer should improve the usage and mechanics throughout the essay and provide at least one additional sentence to connect the different examples. Overall, this essay demonstrates adequate mastery and receives a score of 4.
Every person makes mistakes, no one is perfect. If so then why is the human race so quick to point out flaws in others, but so grudgingly excuses them? Can we not simply focus on our own flaws before pointing out those of others? People need to be more forgiving of others; the world would be a much happier place.

To be part of a team requires one to be easygoing and able to work with others. My tennis team last year had an issue with excusing any shortcomings of others. Last match of the season going in undefeated, but one of our players was absent from the match. We all had to play hard and we did, but it simply wasn’t enough to advance to the next round. Some people began giving up, causing others to become angry at them and blame their bad playing on the moral of others when they should have simply been encouraging and forgiving of the ones who had given up. Possibly, they could have tried to feel what those others were feeling and realize no one is perfect.

The novel “Jane Eyre” is a good example of forgiving the shortcomings of others. Jane lives with her aunt, who feels inferior because of having some in her home. She treats her with cruelty and unkindness. Jane through realization comes to know she cannot judge her aunt for her faults and is able to excuse her error of poor treatment.
Annotation for Paper L:

Score of 4
This competent essay argues that “People need to be more forgiving of others” and provides examples drawn from personal experience and from literature to support its point of view. This generally organized and focused essay demonstrates some coherence and progression of ideas. Using appropriate vocabulary, the writer exhibits adequate facility in the use of language (The first step to confessing our shortcomings is realization that no one is perfect and even the best of people make mistakes). While this essay provides adequate examples to competently develop the position, to receive a higher score, the essay needs to more effectively develop its examples, as well as improve its grammar, usage and sentence structure. This essay demonstrates adequate mastery and receives a score of 4.
We are always ready to judge people differently than they judge themselves. At times we hold others to an unrealistic high standard, but we don’t hold ourselves to a standard that high. We believe that we are always right, and when we aren’t, we don’t think it’s not thinking of a deal. When others are wrong, we look down on them because they don’t know what is expected for them to know. We should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others because we should treat people how we want to be treated, and because everyone makes mistakes.

We should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others because we excuse our own. It isn’t fair to talk down on someone if we don’t know the answer to a certain question, but think nothing of it if we don’t know the answer to that same question. When we make something wrong, we don’t want others to look down on us; therefore, we shouldn’t look down on others. We should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others.

There is not a person in this world who doesn’t make mistakes. When a mistake is made, we all tend to point it out, and pay more emphasis on it than if something was done perfectly. We shouldn’t pay that much attention to mistakes because they happen all the time, and all you can do is learn from them. It is embarrassing when someone points out what we do wrong, so we shouldn’t do it to others. Mistakes are common, they happen all the time, so we should be willing to excuse them.

We should all be willing to excuse the errors and
Annotation for Paper M:

Score of 3
This essay develops a point of view (We should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others) and demonstrates some critical thinking, but the reasoning provided is inadequate to support the position. Although the essay is somewhat focused on its argument, general, repetitive evidence leads to some lapses in coherence and progression of ideas (There is not a person in this world who doesn’t make mistakes... We shouldn’t pay that much attention to mistakes because they happen all the time, and all you can do is learn from them... Mistakes are common, the happen all the time so we should be willing to excuse them). The essay displays developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes uses weak vocabulary. To earn a higher score, the writer must eliminate some of the repetitive sequences in the essay and use critical thinking to further develop his or her reasoning. Demonstrating developing mastery, this essay merits a score of 3.
To justify our own actions and to overlook our own errors is only a natural thing. Everyone does it whether they know it or not, it's a part of being human. Since we are all human we're all likely to make a lot of mistakes that we will regret. Not all mistakes that occur will turn out that way but we must know that sometimes they will. We overlook our mistakes because we have never had someone follow us around and point out every wrong thing that we do. If we did we would be less likely to repeat the mistakes we once made because in our brains it will tell us that we've already made the mistakes and not to do it again. I for one have experienced someone pointing out a mistake that I made and to this day I now think twice before I do it and remember that it’s wrong. I think that we as humans should be more willing to accept the errors and short-comings of others. I believe that we all need a little correcting and we shouldn’t get offended when we’re told. People should be more open to changes, willing to look for your own errors and correct them whenever you can.
Annotation for Paper N:

**Score of 2**

Demonstrating weak critical thinking, this essay attempts to offer a point of view (…we all need a little correcting and we shouldn’t get offended when we’re told), but provides insufficient evidence to support the position. Despite a poor attempt to focus the essay on the idea that if someone pointed out “every wrong thing that we do,” we “would be less likely to repeat the mistakes we once made,” serious problems occur with the coherence and progression of ideas due to general, repetitive support. Vocabulary is limited and repetitive (Since we are all humans we’re all likely to make a lot of mistakes… We overlook our mistakes because we have never had someone follow us around). To achieve a higher score, the writer must develop meaningful examples and reasoning to support the point of view. This essay is seriously limited and merits a score of 2.
I think that others should be held to the same standard as myself. Everyone is equal so why shouldn’t they be? How can one justify their own mistake, but lay down on someone else for the same thing? It’s all a matter of principle to me. There are laws in place that effect everyone, so why don’t the laws we set for ourselves apply to everyone else?
Annotation for Paper O:

**Score of 1**

This fundamentally lacking essay states a point of view (*I think that others should be held at the same standard as myself*), but provides little evidence to support the position. The few ideas presented are disorganized and unfocused, resulting in a disjointed essay (*How can one justify their own mistake, but look down on someone else for the same thing? … There are laws in place that affect everyone, so why don’t the laws we set for ourselves apply to everyone also?*). To earn a higher score, the writer must develop a more focused point of view and provide examples and analysis to support that position. Demonstrating very little mastery, this essay receives a score of 1.
Practice Scoring Anchor Papers

Like the pre-scored anchor papers, the unscored papers (pages 36–47) are essays that received scores from 6 to 1. However, these papers do not appear in rank order by their score.

**To Do:**
- Read the six unscored essays (pages 36–47) and rank them from best (6) to worst (1). Record your answers in the table to the right.
- It may be helpful to print them out or make photocopies so you can physically arrange them in descending order from best to worst.
- Review the actual scores and annotations for these papers on pages 48–49.

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**Essay Prompt:**

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

*It seems that we are always ready to justify our own actions and overlook our own errors. Why, then, are we so unwilling to judge others in the same way? We tend to hold others to very high, even unrealistic standards, expecting them to be always right, always honest, or always conscientious. All of us have personal flaws and shortcomings that we are quite willing to excuse. Surely we should be more willing to excuse such shortcomings in others.*

**Assignment:** Should people be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others?
It is a common question in a human’s conscience if he should excuse the errors and failings of another individual, community, society etc. I strongly believe that a person should do all in his power to correct and amend wrongs that are detrimental and harmful to a society at large. This stance is excellently portrayed by Jacob Riis and Michael Jennings. Burch, author of "They cage the animals at night."

Jacob Riis was a Dutch immigrant who arrived to the US in its late 1800s "golden age." Like many other immigrants he faced poverty, discrimination and limited working opportunities. He lived on the streets and off the garbage of the streets — in alleyways and gutters and sewers. He slowly built himself up and earned himself a respectable title as a reporter. Riis then set out to inform the world of the horrors of slum life and the difficulties faced by the lower class. He photographed and wrote about the conditions making famous areas like "Hell's Kitchen" and titles like "Street Arab" — and this was an appalling eye opener to many. But not to all — exploiting landlords, city officials and factory owners all knew of the deplorable conditions but chose to overlook them. In his book "How the other half lives" Riis took a firm stand against this indifference and made a statement — such horror would no longer be tolerated. He forced the city and society at large to examine and acknowledge the failings of their leaders and demand reform. This ultimately paved the way for new regulations in areas such as hygiene, safety, housing, etc.
Another portrayal of his theme is Michael Jennings Burch. His book details his experiences as foster and orphanage child in the 1950's—and graphically depicts the horrors. The method of rejecting care for children in the 1950's was often neglect or worse, downright abuse. Jennings' mother gave him up when he was 7 because she was too ill to care for him and for the rest of his childhood he was shown little love and care. He publicly spoke out against it and printed his memoirs in the groundbreaking novel, "They Cage the Animals at Night"—where he movingly and emotionally told his story.

In conclusion, I believe it is imperative to speak out against wrongs perpetrated, as demonstrated by Jacob Riss and Michael Jennings Burch. It is precisely because of the awareness of people such as them that helped create who we are as a society today.
I believe that if someone has a reasonable excuse for making a mistake, then they should be forgiven. Although if the person does not present a good excuse or that their mistake was just because they were being foolish, then they should undoubtedly suffer the consequences. I think that this rule applies to all aspects of everyday life. Unless the person has been proved that they have committed adultery, and then of course that person has no reason to be forgiven.

An example of a person who should be forgiven is a school teacher. Say they mark a few questions wrong on the test that were actually correct, then you should go to the teacher who made the mistake and ask them about it, and if they change it then they should be forgiven for their mistake. If you go up to the teacher and start yelling and throwing a fit, then chances are the teacher will not want to do you any favors, even if it was their mistake. Anybody would react like that, not just a teacher.

The consequences for people should be determined on whether or not their mistake was justified or not.
CONTINUATION OF ESSAY. WRITE BELOW ONLY IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE.

Unscored Anchor Paper V:

The score and annotation for this essay can be found on page 48.
We often judge others for their own shortcomings while ignoring our own personal flaws. However, we can see, especially through literature, that people should really be more willing to forgive others for their errors and shortcomings. We see in the Old Testament that humans should emulate God, who is always forgiving, if a person makes a real effort to correct his or her error. We also see in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter that the Puritans did not easily forgive Hester for her wrongdoing, which made her path to repentance very difficult. Both these examples prove that we should be more willing to forgive others' shortcomings and flaws, as they make a sincere attempt to correct them and work on themselves.

The Old Testament is a time-tested guide for how to lead our lives. We are told from it how to become good people and lead happy and productive lives. One of the main themes of the Bible is emulating God, specifically His traits. One of these traits is forgiveness. God does not hold a grudge over man for sinning; however, He does not just move on without a sign that the sinner is trying to change and correct his or her flaws that cause them to sin. If a person makes a sincere effort to repent, as is lined out in various passages of the Bible, God will forgive with open arms. From this trait of God, we learn to be forgiving. We learn to understand when another person fails and give them the benefit of the doubt as God does to his nation Israel when they sin like with the Golden Calf, the 10 gypsies sent to the land of Israel or their various other failings. If God, as great as He is, can forgive them, how much more so should we, mere humans with our many flaws, forgive our sincere brethren.

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's literary classic, The Scarlet Letter, we see another example of the benefit of forgiving a person for their flaws. However, this book
shows the reverse, a community that refuses to forgive, possibly because they cannot see and as forgiving either. In the novel that is set in 1670s Puritan New England, Hester Prynne, the protagonist, succumbs to her own shortcomings and commits adultery. She is branded as a sinner by her community and forced to wear a scarlet letter “A” on her chest. But it is clear that Hester sincerely desires to repent. She works on her flaws and takes her passion that caused her sin and drives it towards doing good deeds for the helpless of her community, yet still the community shuns and ostracizes her. Even the very people she helps slander and demean her. Surely, her path to full repentance and an eventually normal life would have been easier if the townspeople had seen her desire to work on herself and her flaws as a sign that she should be forgiven.

In conclusion, we should not simply excuse the flaws and shortcomings of others. Rather we should try to understand the flaws of others and forgive those who sincerely desire to correct their flaws and work on themselves, as all people, not just branded sinners, should do constantly. The Old Testament is a perfect example of this as God always forgives those who sin and sincerely make an effort to repent and work on their flaws. Just as God forgave the Jews in countless stories in the Bible after they tried to repent with pure hearts, we should emulate God and forgive those around us who are sincere about their flaws.

This is also shown in The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne in which the Puritan community refuses to forgive Hester even after her tireless efforts at repentance. Hawthorne highlights how clear the need is to forgive those who try to correct their flaws as Hester did instead of isolating them and bearing ineradicable grudges against them. We all have flaws and shortcomings and rather than excuse them we should correct them and see other attempts to correct them and forgive them accordingly.
To make a mistake is an event that has happened to every single person in the world. Mistakes can be both good and bad, but do people tend to overlook their personal errors more than those of others? This question might seem obvious in some, but to others the idea that everyone makes mistakes is known. Unfortunately, in the present, a person does tend to expect others to be flawless. This thought that no one but you makes mistakes should not be thought because it is clearly not true. Everyone makes mistakes, and because of this people should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others.

Throughout history, many important people, such as leaders of a country, have made mistakes that people don’t agree with. President Truman made the gruesome mistake of choosing to use the atomic bomb in WWII. Many Americans were outraged upon this decision to act in such a way. It could be said that Americans just assumed that when a person is to be president that they won’t make mistakes, but always do what is right for the country. This could be considered a massive mistake to some because of the mass destruction that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but eventually the mistake did subside. If it weren’t for Truman’s mistake to use the atomic bomb the war would have taken longer to end, and therefore
people should've, in time, been willing to excuse this
error made by Truman.

In the famous book The Scarlet Letter a woman named Hester is made to wear a big letter “A” on her chest by the Puritans because she got pregnant before she was married. This act she performed was said to be a sin, and because of it was forced to live in shame by wearing this symbol. But the question could be: Why did Hester have to wear that symbol back in that era when now its not as big of a deal? The answer would be that people came to overlook this flaw that some possess to get pregnant before marriage. Society accepted the fact that not all people are perfect, and decided to do something about it as it should.

People all make mistakes. It is a part of life. Something bad may occur because of a mistake, but in the end it seems everything will work out. On the contrary something good might result due to the mistake made. So whether there are mistakes such as Truman or Hester, mistakes are always made and can be forgiven and should be excusable.

Unscored Anchor Paper X:

The score and annotation for this essay can be found on page 48.
I believe that people should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others. I believe this because nobody is perfect and we do not have the authority to judge others. Since we do not have the authority to judge others, our only choice should be to excuse the errors of others.

Pointing out people's errors and shortcomings makes them feel bad. I don't think we should point out people's shortcomings because it can mess up a person's self-esteem and cause them to become depressed. We shouldn't point out people's errors.
Unscored Anchor Paper Y:

The score and annotation for this essay can be found on page 49.
I think people should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others. Everyone makes mistakes and nobody is perfect. I think that the people that are most often criticized for their mistakes are the people who are often in the media. Some ordinary guy can be charged with a DUI but when it’s a celebrity all of a sudden they are a bad person and a morally corrupt criminal.

Maybe it’s because we just like to make excuses for our own errors or maybe we just want the people who “represent” us and our society to be perfect. For instance, my mom always curses the car in front of us because they are going too slow. What she doesn’t realize is that she drives slow sometimes too. When she is talking on the phone, looking for something in the glove compartment, or just not paying attention. If someone were to point this fact out to her, I’m sure she wouldn’t criticize us much when it comes to driving.

Overall I think people should forgive and overlook the flaws of others, but I know the wont because society is a bunch of selfish people who must be entertained by the media which supplies them with gossip which is just a bunch of people criticizing celebrities.
Scores and Annotations for Unscored Anchor Papers

**Paper U: Score of 5**
Exhibiting strong critical thinking, this well-organized essay effectively develops a point of view (I strongly believe that a person should do all in his power to correct and amend wrongs that are detrimental and harmful to a society at large) and supports the position with appropriate reasons and examples from history. Well organized and focused on its argument, the response displays coherence and progression of ideas (Jacob Riis was a Dutch immigrant who arrived to the US in its late 1800s “gilded age.” Like many others immigrants he faced poverty, discrimination and limited working opportunities… Riis then set out to inform the world of the horrors of slum life and the difficulties faced by the lower class). The essay exhibits facility in the use of language and variety in sentence structure (He forced the city and society at large to examine and acknowledge the failings of their leaders and demand reform. This ultimately paved the way for new regulations in areas such as hygiene, safety, housing etc.). To earn a 6, the writer should provide a smooth transition between the two examples and enhance the conclusion, perhaps by discussing the modern-day results of Riis’ and/or Burch’s important exposures. Despite a few minor errors, this essay demonstrates reasonably consistent mastery and merits a score of 5.

**Paper V: Score of 2**
This essay offers a point of view (I believe that if someone has a reasonable excuse for making a mistake then they should be forgiven), but demonstrates weak critical thinking by providing reasons and examples that are insufficient to support the position. Sparse support impedes the coherence and progression of ideas (An example of a person who should be forgiven is a school teacher…you should go to the teacher who made the mistake and ask them about it, and if they change it then they should be forgiven for their mistake). For a higher score, the writer must further develop his or her point of view, providing detailed evidence that better supports the position. Demonstrating little mastery, this essay receives a score of 2.

**Paper W: Score of 6**
Demonstrating outstanding critical thinking, this essay effectively and insightfully develops its point of view (… we should be more willing to forgive others shortcomings and flaws, if they make a sincere attempt to correct them and work on themselves) and supports the position using clearly appropriate reasons and examples drawn from the Old Testament and The Scarlet Letter. The response is well organized and clearly focused on its argument, displaying clear coherence and progression of ideas (The Old Testament is a time-tested guide for how to lead our lives…. One of the main themes of the bible is emulating God, specifically His 13 traits. One of these traits is forgiveness…. If a person makes a sincere effort to repent, as is lined out in various passages of the bible, God will forgive with open arms. From this trait of God we learn to be forgiving. We learn to understand when another person fails and give them the benefit of the doubt as God does to His nation Israel). The essay exhibits skillful use of language using a varied, accurate and apt vocabulary, and displays meaningful variety in sentence structure (… this book shows the reverse, a community that refuses to forgive, possibly because they do not see God as forgiving either). This essay demonstrates clear and consistent mastery and earns a score of 6.

**Paper X: Score of 4**
Demonstrating competent critical thinking, this essay develops a point of view (Everyone makes mistakes, and because of this people should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others) and provides adequate reasons and examples taken from American history and literature to support the position. Generally organized and focused, the response displays some coherence and progression of ideas (President Truman made the gruesome mistake of choosing to use the atomic bomb in WWII…. If it weren’t for Truman’s mistake to use the atomic bomb the war would have taken longer to end, and therefore people should’ve, in time, been willing to excuse this error made by Truman). The essay displays adequate facility in the use of language, and sentence structure shows some variety. In order to achieve a higher score, the writer should use critical thinking to develop further the example of Truman’s mistake and its ramifications. This essay demonstrates adequate mastery and earns a score of 4.
**Paper Y: Score of 1**

The writer of this fundamentally lacking essay offers a point of view (…people should be more willing to excuse the errors and short comings of others), but provides too little evidence to support the position. The support provided is unfocused and jumps from idea to idea (…nobody is perfect and we do not have the authority to judge others … Pointing out people’s errors and wrongdoings makes them feel bad … We shouldn’t point out people’s errors). The writer can achieve a higher score by using critical thinking to provide well-organized, clearly developed evidence that supports the point of view. This essay demonstrates very little mastery and receives a score of 1.

**Paper Z: Score of 3**

Demonstrating some critical thinking, this essay develops a point of view (I think people should be more willing to excuse the errors and shortcomings of others), but the evidence provided is inadequately developed to support the position. Despite some evidence of organization around examples, some lapses occur in coherence and progression of ideas due to general support (…my mom always curses the car in front of us because they are going to slow. What she doesn’t realize is that she drives slow sometimes, too. When she is talking on the phone, looking for something in the glove compartment, or just not paying attention). The response exhibits developing facility in the use of language. To achieve a higher score, the writer must elaborate on the driving example or provide other related examples to support his or her point of view. This essay demonstrates developing mastery and receives a score of 3.