Sample Response That Received a Score of 3

In this response, the test taker demonstrates a "High Degree of Competence"; therefore, the response merits a score of 3.

The idea behind the work is clearly identified: "This piece was about taking art and letting the audience use it to say what they want to... I wanted to give viewers the opportunity to express themselves and interact with art to become part of it." The process is also clearly expressed: "I decided to sand all of the 200 letters to make them smooth to the touch and round the edges." Further elaboration is provided: "I burned the letters into the wood to mimic the look as well as the feel, of Scrabble tiles, which people are accustomed to holding and manipulating. Though the technical discussion of process is relatively general, the process is convincingly and logically connected to the idea behind the work: 'as well as being visually appealing I wanted the pieces to be pleasing to the touch... My inspiration for the design of the pieces was Scrabble.' All statements about process link directly with the stated idea of drawing in viewers to interact with the work.

As a whole, the response is focused squarely on the question asked and on the work shown. Discussion of the work shows clear, articulate thinking about making art.
Step 3: Practice with Sample Test Questions

Sample Response That Received a Score of 2

Title of work: Tic Toc Work
Dimensions of work: Height: 19" Width 12.5"
Medium or media: Photomechanical screen print
Other relevant physical characteristics (if any): Cotton base paper
AI#004#

In my screen print piece "Tic Toc Work" I had to make a decision before starting on which screen print method I wanted to use. Because this piece was going to have a lot of layers and fine details, the best approach was to use photomechanical screen printing. I could duplicate an image with fine detail and also layer it later using the same screen exposure. I next had to choose my colors. When picking out a color combination for this image I knew I wanted it to represent coffee and business "gold" so I started off with a brown cotton paper base and then mixed colors that were darker than my base. In some of my colors I mixed transparent paint so some images will show through others. This is to depict a more dream like feel, it's not all there, and I also show the amount of work that went into this piece. With these two aspects in place, I was able to make fine detail cogs and a translucent dreamlike image drowned in coffee and business tones.

Commentary on Response That Received a Score of 2

The response merits a score of 2, indicating "Competence," because it demonstrates basic understanding of the question.

The response begins with the selection and elaboration of the process—"photomechanical screen printing"—and goes on to explain technical decisions that followed. These decisions included color choices and the use of both transparent and, by implication, opaque inks. The discussion of technique is clear and generally informative. By contrast, the concept has to be pieced together from two different statements: "I knew I wanted it to represent coffee and business 'gold'" and "This is to depict a more dream like feel." These two concept statements do not have an obvious connection to each other, which weakens the overall coherence of the response. Nor are the links between idea and process absolutely clear.

As a whole, the response provides considerable information about the process and analyzes the work in relation to the question, thereby showing basic understanding.
Step 3: Practice with Sample Test Questions

Sample Response That Received a Score of 1

Title of work: Untitled
Dimensions of work: Height: 8” Width: 10”
Medium or media: Photography
Other relevant physical characteristics (if any): black & white

In this work it was important for me to create a balance in the work. The girl is offset in the work, but is balanced because of the window.

I also wanted to keep the viewer interested in the work. I felt by having the girl looking up, that will keep you guessing as to what she is looking up at or why is this girl standing next to this building that looks abandoned. The message that it conveys is once again left for the viewer to detect.

The technique for this image is shot middle of frame. If I were to shoot this image in any other direction it would have not given the same results.

Commentary on Sample Response That Received a Score of 1

This response demonstrates “Limited Competence” and therefore merits a score of 1. The stated ideas are to "create a balance" and "to keep the viewer interested in the work." Yet the response does not specify the kind of balance nor does it provide a reason for composing the image with the balance that the image shows. Holding a viewer's interest is an extremely general idea.

The statement that the intended message is "once again left for the viewer to detect" suggests that perhaps one idea behind the work was to create a mysterious image. The description of the figure looking up and her placement in front of the building appear to support that suggestion, but the connection between the idea and the work is somewhat thin.

The declaration "The technique for this image is shot middle of frame" is the only reference to technique or process in the response, and even this could be considered as composition rather than actual process. No real explanation is included of how the process or technique might have helped to express the ideas that are either stated or implied.

As a whole, the response does not provide logical support for general statements. In addition, the lack of discussion about photographic technique or process means that the question is never fully addressed.