Question 3

General Directions: This scoring guide is designed so that the same performance expectations are applied to all student responses. It will be useful for most of the essays, but if it seems inappropriate for a specific essay, assistance should be sought from the Table Leader. The Table Leader should always be shown books that seem to have no response or that contain responses that seem unrelated to the question. A score of 0 or — should not be assigned without this consultation.

The essay’s score should reflect an evaluation of the essay as a whole. Students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged according to standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. The essay should be evaluated as a draft, and students should be rewarded for what they do well. The evaluation should focus on the evidence and explanations that the student uses to support the response; students should not be penalized for taking a particular perspective.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay’s overall quality. In no case should a score higher than a 2 be given to an essay with errors in grammar and mechanics that persistently interfere with understanding of meaning.

9 – Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for the score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or particularly impressive in their control of language.

8 – Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 effectively develop a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” The evidence and explanations appropriately and convincingly support the writer’s position, and the argument* is especially coherent and well developed. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

7 – Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for the score of 6 but provide a more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

6 – Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 adequately develop a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” The evidence and explanations appropriately and sufficiently support the writer’s position, and the argument is coherent and adequately developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 – Essays earning a score of 5 develop a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” The evidence and explanations used to support that position may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer’s ideas.
Question 3 (continued)

4 – Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 inadequately develop a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” The evidence and explanations used may inappropriately, insufficiently, or unconvincingly support the writer’s position. The argument may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the student’s ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

3 – Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in developing a position on Hedges’ argument that “the most essential skill . . . is artifice.” The essays may show less maturity in their control of writing.

2 – Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in developing a position on Hedges’ argument that "the most essential skill . . . is artifice." The student may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated or inaccurate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.

1 – Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, weak in their control of language, or especially lacking in coherence and development.

0 – Indicates an off-topic response, one that merely repeats the prompt, an entirely crossed-out response, a drawing, or a response in a language other than English.

— Indicates an entirely blank response.

* For the purposes of scoring, argument means asserting a claim justified by evidence and/or reasoning.
Although many may argue that a nation's leaders must be held to a morally superior standard and use only honesty and order in their pursuit, the Machiavellian nature of politicians, the attempt for politicians to seem more ordinary, and the regular attempts to hide scandals prove that artifice is essential on the road to political office. Individuals must employ artifice and create an ideal ego in order for society to accept them as trustworthy and similar to the common man.

Throughout history, rulers have utilized countless different methods of achieving power, however, none have been so successful as mastering the art of lying. In his advice to future rulers, Niccolo Machiavelli encourages them to lie and maintain the illusion of sympathy to the common struggles in order to retain power. He asserts that it is imperative for a ruler to appear caring and sympathetic...
even if he has no objective but power. Machiavelli argues that to be sincere and honest is akin to being vulnerable. A ruler must be skilled in the art of deception if he is not to fall prey to usurpers. Thus, it is essential that he appear humble and morally upright to his constituents as he is to appear idealistic despite his nature being identical to his foes' citizens.

Many popular politicians employ this illusion of modesty in the modern age. Barack Obama, a favorite among much of nation was the first sitting president to even appear on a talk show. Despite his many addresses to the nation, his appearance on a talk-show enabled him to win the hearts of millions as he was shown to be humble, ordinary, and accessible. This played an additional role in him winning the trust of the American people and securing a second term. Similarly, Bill Clinton was the first
Presidential candidate to appear on a talk show, allowing him to easily reach the public and assert his ideas, winning him the Presidency. Therefore, the appearance of modesty and transparency plays an enormous role in a politician's chance of success.

The recent election was extremely polarizing as the American people were presented with two of the most radical candidates, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Throughout 2016, each party's cycle was gripped with scandals from both sides, scandals that the two parties had attempted to hide. However, despite almost daily accusations against Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton's issue with the deleted emails ultimately resulted in her loss. The truth of the matter is, all politicians have secrets and scandals but the difference between those who succeed and those who don't is the skill to cover them up. Hillary Clinton was not well-versed in the art of deception through she tried countless times whenever
She attempted to cover up a scandal. It was tasteless and forever painted her as untrustworthy and deceitful despite the numerous scandals against Donald Trump as well, resulting in her ultimate loss of the presidency. Thus, a politician cannot simply lie but must be skilled in that art. He must be willing to go to extreme measures to cover up scandals because ultimately, they will be discovered.

Thus, despite the morally superior moral superiority we ascribe to politicians and leaders, it is essential for them to employ artifice as demonstrated by Machiavelli, Barack Obama, and the recent presidential candidates. For only then can they win over a nation’s trust and hopes, if they are considered better but act shamefully.
The American people love a good story, whether it be true or not. If a politician can weave a good story that tugs on people's heartstrings, they are practically guaranteed a win. Which is why Chris Hedges' argument that "the most essential skill... is artifice" is true.

To use a recent example, in last year's presidential election, Donald Trump gathered mass support by proclaimed that he was not the typical politician. He was a "man of the people", a home grown American that just wanted to make America great again. He used the old Reagan campaign slogan to create a name for himself and get enough support to carry him into the White House. People connected to him because of his practically non-existent political ties and believed in his message and direction for our country. Finally, there was someone the everyday person could relate to and trust enough to let him lead them.

Evidence of using artifice isn't just found in elections, but also in literature. In the book "The Hunger Games", the two main characters of Katniss and Peeta create a story to foster compassion for them in
the hopes that it would help them both make it out of the Hunger Games alive. The plan works and they are sent medicine and other help throughout the games, making it out in the end both alive. They made their audience believe they were in love, angering the gamemakers while drawing sympathy from the crowds of people that watch the games. In the next book, "Catching Fire," they take it even further by implying that Katniss is pregnant, again using a false story to reach their desired outcome. People believed it, of course, and it worked to their advantage.

Politics has always been known as a platform for lies and storytelling. Yet, people believe those lies and revel in the ingenuity of their storytelling, always hoping that their lies are actually truths and their stories more fact than fiction. They choose to give politicians the benefit of the doubt and believe it if it sounds good, or right, or whatever they want to believe. Because Americans have always been a sucker for a pretty face and a good story.
Most Americans would agree that politicians lie to get into office. Which is a prime example that the essential skills are artificial. Politicians will say almost anything to get into office whether it be creating a wall or breaking the glass ceiling. People have come to expect this making it apart of our culture in America.

Another example would be actors on red carpets or at interviews they sound genuine and relatable, but in reality they could be selfish people who doesn’t care about anyone. To the public they act charming, honest, and sincere. They do this so they can get famous and rich. They do this so they will never get ignored.

Personally we have all done this we make up fake stories to impress someone, or we over compensate on a job application. Why do we do this? We do this to get a job or a raise. We do this to get a date or a new friend. We do this to get ahead in like to make sure we are always better than the person beside us. All this examples show us how
Are essential skills are artificial. In the end we all lie or pretend to have a skill that we don't have. Sure there are people who would never lie, but look around humans started lying soon since the start with Adam and Eve, which leaves the only that all our skills are fake.