**Advanced Composition Pretest**

This passage examines the U.S. Postal Service’s financial problems and humorously suggests some possible solutions to these problems.

Read the passage carefully to identify the author’s purpose. Feel free to annotate directly on the piece to make comments, observations, or ask questions. Then choose **one** of the rhetorical devices from the list below and identify where the author uses the device you selected. Lastly, write an analytical essay in which you explain how the author uses the device you selected to establish his purpose.

**Syntax**: The way words are put together to form phrases, clauses, and sentences. It is sentence

structure and how it influences the way a reader perceives a piece of writing.

**Irony**: A situation or statement characterized by significant difference between what is expected

or understood and what actually happens or is meant. Irony is frequently humorous, and

can be sarcastic when using words to imply the opposite of what they normally mean.

**Diction**: An author's choice of words to convey a tone or effect.

**Hyperbole**: An overstatement characterized by exaggerated language.

**Allusion**: A figure of speech which makes brief, even casual reference to a historical or literary

figure, event, or object to create a resonance in the reader or to apply a symbolic meaning

to the character or object of which the allusion consists.

**Satire**: A literary style used to make fun of or ridicule an idea or human vice or weakness.

**Scoring**

Your essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:

* Fulfills all prompt requirements

1. establishes author’s purpose yes no
2. uses textual evidence yes no
3. explains effect of the rhetorical device yes no

* Uses clear AXES structure for analysis yes no
* Varies sentence patterns yes no
* Uses effective diction yes no
* Well-crafted yes no
* Minimal mechanical errors yes no
* Correct MLA format yes no