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*Do you think it is important for people to continue to travel into space? Why or why not? You may want to think about issues, such as*

- costs
- dangers
- rewards



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## Student writing assessment exemplar:

Continued space travel and exploration are essential for humans **in order to expand** our understanding of the **universe**. One of the biggest questions we have is if there are other living beings out there. We also want to know whether or not there are any valuable resources that we can use on earth. **Finally**, as the earth becomes more and more crowded, people wonder if there is a planet that humans can live on. **Of course** there are many costs, dangers and rewards **associated** with exploring these three ideas further.

Aliens and **extra-terrestrial** beings occupy the imaginations of millions of people. Think of how many books, movies and songs are about creatures from outer space. As soon as man stepped foot on the moon – the question about life on other planets continued to dominate space **research** and **exploration**. The technology required to observe, record, and test the **atmosphere** and **composition** of the planets is very costly. It is expensive to design tools to withstand extreme **temperatures** and unknown materials. Also as science advances and new things are discovered, new tools need to be created in order to find out more. Many **satellites** and **probes** are used to determine if there is movement or living things on other planets. These tools only measure what we currently know to measure. Scientists are working hard to **evolve** the satellites and probes so that we can measure and learn more. The dangers of finding out about life on other planets is that sometimes valuable **equipment** is lost or worse, human lives are lost as some space crafts do not make it out of the earth's atmosphere or back into it after a mission is completed. **But** when there are discoveries made the rewards are huge for the astronauts and the scientists as they become famous and make lots of money because of their bravery or brilliance.

Humans use a lot of the earth's resources. Some are renewable and some are **non-renewable**. Consumption is a huge concern and so some people focus on using renewable resources and recycling what we do have and others look to finding new sources of energy. One of the places that scientists are exploring for resources is space. **As far as we know**, since nobody lives in space, no one owns space including the land, the air or the resources. **Therefore, if** someone was to discover something useful and a way to mine it and transport it back to earth, they **could** do that. **While** that would be extremely expensive to research, it could be very profitable in the end. **However**, there may also be many dangers such as losing new equipment and technology while trying to find out what works, or losing lives when people are exploring or having the resource be toxic and harmful to humans once it's in earth's atmosphere. If the resource was helpful to humans the rewards would be fame, money and a good feeling of knowing you have helped to do some good for people or the planet earth.

One of the most interesting ideas is living on another planet besides earth or even living in space on a big space ship. Star Wars and Star Trek are just two of hundreds of movies and shows about living in space and have **captured the imaginations** of people. Nowadays when astronauts live in space it is on small space craft with not a lot of room or excitement. They spend a lot of time doing research and monitoring things. They must miss their families when they are away for a long time or get tired of the people they are stuck onboard with. We are a long ways from being able to live in space in a comfortable way with all of the amenities that we are used to. For people to actually live in space a lot of money will have to be **invested** in space craft or **habitat** structures on other planets that have oxygen supplies. **This would also be quite dangerous and many people could have accidents or die if something were to go wrong with the habitat.** The rewards for humans would be kind of **like being a pioneer** or the "first" true space residents. Also a chance for a new or different way of life.

Space travel and exploration will be a part of the human story for years to come. We won't know how long it will take before **aliens** are discovered, resources are mined and utilized on earth or if we will truly ever live in space. Money will continued to be invested in space and some lives will be lost, but the rewards and excitement will be worth it.

**Level 6:** Uses a broad range of subject-specific words (**universe, exploration, satellites, probes, habitat, aliens**), academic words (**expand, associated, research, evolve, invested**), technical words (**extra-terrestrial, atmosphere, composition, temperatures, equipment, non-renewable**), and figurative language (**captured the imaginations, like being a pioneer**)

**Level 6:** Uses a variety of sentence lengths and types, including compound-complex sentences (**This would also be quite dangerous and many people could have accidents or die if something were to go wrong with the habitat.**)

**Level 6:** Uses a broad range of connector and transition words and phrases to justify an opinion (**in order to, finally, of course**), rephrase (**therefore**), suggest a possibility (**if, could**), and show change of direction (**but, however**) or exception (**as far as we know, while**)

Use the checkboxes below to display the corresponding Benchmarks 2.0 indicators.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vocabulary	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sentence Structure	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connections and Transitions	6

Writing Benchmark Level

6

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