

2018 AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

65 These women have in common a determination to
chart their own path, and by so doing, to alter for the
better the course of their country or community.

Each has suffered blows, but each has proceeded
with courage. Each has persevered.

70 As you go along your own road in life, you will, if
you aim high enough, also meet resistance, for as
Robert Kennedy once said, “if there’s nobody in your
way, it’s because you’re not going anywhere.” But no
matter how tough the opposition may seem, have
courage still—and persevere.

75 There is no doubt, if you aim high enough, that you
will be confronted by those who say that your efforts
to change the world or improve the lot of those
around you do not mean much in the grand scheme
of things. But no matter how impotent you may
80 sometimes feel, have courage still—and persevere.

It is certain, if you aim high enough, that you will
find your strongest beliefs ridiculed and challenged;
principles that you cherish may be derisively
dismissed by those claiming to be more practical or
85 realistic than you. But no matter how weary you may
become in persuading others to see the value in what
you value, have courage still—and persevere.

Inevitably, if you aim high enough, you will
be buffeted by demands of family, friends and
90 employment that will conspire to distract you from
your course. But no matter how difficult it may be to
meet the commitments you have made, have courage
still—and persevere.

It has been said that all work that is worth anything
95 is done in faith.

This morning, in these beautiful surroundings,
at this celebration of warm memory and high
expectation, I summon you in the name of this
historic college and of all who have passed through its
100 halls, to embrace the faith that your courage and your
perseverance will make a difference; and that every
life enriched by your giving, every friend touched by
your affection, every soul inspired by your passion
and every barrier to justice brought down by your
105 determination, will ennoble your own life, inspire
others, serve your country, and explode outward the
boundaries of what is achievable on this earth.

¹ military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty of
April 4, 1949

² peace agreement ending the war in Bosnia, signed in 1995