

## WRITING SCORING GUIDE (COMPOSITION GUIDE)

Topic Development					
1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little topic/idea development, organization, and/or details</li> <li>Little or no awareness of audience and/or task</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited or weak topic/idea development, organization, and/or details</li> <li>Limited awareness of audience and/or task</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rudimentary topic/idea development and/or organization</li> <li>Basic supporting details</li> <li>Simplistic language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate topic/idea development and organization</li> <li>Adequate, relevant details</li> <li>Some variety in language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full topic/idea development</li> <li>Logical organization</li> <li>Strong details</li> <li>Appropriate use of language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rich topic/idea development</li> <li>Careful and/or subtle organization</li> <li>Effective/rich use of language</li> </ul>
Competency Descriptions					
		Commendations	Needs		
<b>Topic Development</b>	The overall effect of the paper	Central idea is clear and complete Central idea is clear and complete Topic development is insightful Topic development is original Composition contains sophisticated commentary and analysis	Central idea is missing Central idea lacks focus Topic needs more development Development is repetitious		
<b>Organization</b>	The degree to which the response is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>focused</li> <li>clearly and logically ordered</li> <li>clarified by paragraphs</li> </ul>	Effective organization of ideas Use of transitions contributes to a consistent focus  Major ideas receive the most emphasis Conclusion is effective	Ideas need to be better organized Needs transitions between ideas to maintain consistent focus  Conclusion is missing or needs more development		
<b>Details</b>	The degree to which the response includes examples that develop the main points	Details are carefully chosen to support the central idea Details are well developed	Composition needs more relevant detail Details need to support major ideas Details need more development Composition relies too much on plot summary		
<b>Language/ Style</b>	The degree to which manipulation of language, including vocabulary, word choice, word combination, and sentence variety, is effectively achieved	Word choice is effective Sentence variety adds richness Language creates a distinctive voice, tone, or style	Needs more variety in word choice Needs more sentence variety		
Standard English Conventions					
1	2	3	4		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Errors seriously interfere with communication AND</li> <li>Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or</li> <li>Too many errors relative to the length of the essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Errors do not interfere with communication and/or</li> <li>Few errors relative to the length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics (length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of standard English conventions.</li> </ul>		
		Commendations	Needs		
<b>Structure</b>	The degree to which the response includes sentences that are correct in structure	Sentence structure is mostly correct Composition demonstrates correctness and control	Needs fewer errors in sentence structure  Composition not long enough to demonstrate correctness and control Writing does not demonstrate control of grammar		
<b>Grammar and Usage</b>	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of standard grammatical rules of English</li> <li>word usage and vocabulary</li> </ul>	Writing demonstrates control of grammar Writing demonstrates control of word usage	Words are often used incorrectly		
<b>Mechanics</b>	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spelling</li> <li>capitalization</li> <li>punctuation</li> </ul>	Punctuation is used correctly in a variety of ways Challenging words are spelled correctly	Punctuation is too frequently incorrect or missing Words are frequently misspelled Composition would benefit from more careful proofreading		