

Scoring Rubric

Scores from 6 to 1 reflect the range of excellence in the papers written in response to the assignment. Anchor and sample papers illustrate both the limits and the diversity within each score level. The following broad categories define the score ranges for the writing assignment and for the range of skills among students responding.

SCORE OF 6

A 6 paper is **OUTSTANDING**. It demonstrates a high degree of proficiency in response to the assignment but may have a few minor errors.

An essay in this category:

- is well organized and coherently developed
- clearly explains or illustrates key ideas
- demonstrates syntactic variety
- clearly displays facility in the use of language
- is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure

SCORE OF 5

A 5 paper is **STRONG**. It demonstrates clear proficiency in response to the assignment and may have minor errors.

An essay in this category:

- is generally well organized and coherently developed
- explains or illustrates key ideas
- demonstrates some syntactic variety
- displays facility in the use of language
- is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure

SCORE OF 4

A 4 paper is **COMPETENT**. It demonstrates proficiency in response to the assignment.

An essay in this category:

- is adequately organized and developed
- explains or illustrates some of the key ideas
- demonstrates adequate facility in the use of language
- may display some errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure

SCORE OF 3

A 3 paper is **LIMITED**. It demonstrates some degree of proficiency in response to the assignment, but it is clearly flawed.

An essay in this category reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

- inadequate organization or development