

Public Schools Generic Essay Scoring Rubric

The score should reflect a judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole. All essays, even those scored 8 and 9, may contain occasional flaws in analysis prose style, or mechanics. These lapses should enter into your holistic evaluation of an essay's overall grammar and mechanics higher than a 2.

- 9 (95%) Impressive:** Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for essays that are scored an 8 and, in addition are especially sophisticated in their explanation and argument or demonstrate particularly impressive control of language.
- 8 (90%) Effective:** Essays earning a score of 8 effectively present an argument from the prompt. The evidence drawn from reading and experience is appropriate and convincing. The grammar, diction, and syntax are excellent but not necessarily flawless. These essays demonstrate clear organization and clear expression.
- 7 (85%) Adequate, More Complete and Mature:** Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of essays that are scored a 6 but provide a more complete explanation and argument OR demonstrate a more mature prose style.
- 6 (80%) Adequate:** Essays earning a score of 6 adequately present an argument from the prompt. The evidence used is appropriate and sufficient. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.
- 5 (75%) Adequate But Inconsistent:** Essays earning a score of 5 present an argument on the topic. This essay may, however, provide uneven, inconsistent, or limited arguments. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.
- 4 (70%) Inadequate:** Essays earning a score of 4 respond to the prompt inadequately. They may have difficulty presenting an argument. The evidence used may be inappropriate and/or insufficient. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may suggest immature control of writing.
- 3 (65%) Inadequate, Less Control:** Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of a 4 but demonstrate less success in establishing or supporting their position. These essays may show less control of writing.
- 2 (60%) Little Success:** Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in presenting an argument. These essays may misread the passage, misunderstand the prompt, fail to present an argument, or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate evidence. The prose often demonstrates consistent weakness in writing
- 1 (55%) Little Success, Simplistic:** Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria of a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their argument; they might not present any evidence or ideas, or are weak in their control of language.
- 0 (50%) Repeats Prompt:** Indicates an on-topic response which receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.

— Indicates a blank paper or one that is completely off topic.