

RUBRIC FOR ESSAY SCORING - Educational Testing Service <http://www.ets.org/>

Score = 6 **You have put together a convincing argument. Here are some of the strengths evident in your writing:**

Your essay:

- Looks at the topic from a number of angles and responds to all aspects of what you were asked to do
- Responds thoughtfully and insightfully to the issues in the topic
- Develops with a superior structure and apt reasons or examples (each one adding significantly to the reader's understanding of your view)
- Uses sentence styles and language that have impact and energy and keep the reader with you
- Demonstrates that you know the mechanics of correct sentence structure, and American English usage—virtually free of errors

Score = 5 **You have solid writing skills and something interesting to say. Look at the 6 sample essay to get ideas on how to develop your ideas more fully or use language more persuasively and consistently.**

Your essay:

- Responds more effectively to some parts of the topic or task than to other parts
- Shows some depth and complexity in your thinking
- Organizes and develops your ideas with reasons and examples that are appropriate
- Uses the range of language and syntax available to you
- Uses grammar, mechanics, or sentence structure with hardly any error

Score = 4 **Your writing is good, but you need to know how to be more persuasive and more skillful at communicating your ideas. Look at the 5 and 6 sample essays to see how you could be more persuasive and use language more effectively.**

Your essay:

- Slight some parts of the task
- Treats the topic simplistically or repetitively
- Is organized adequately, but you need more fully to support your position with discussion, reasons, or examples
- Shows that you can say what you mean, but you could use language more precisely or vigorously
- Demonstrates control in terms of grammar, usage, or sentence structure, but you may have some errors

Score = 3 **Your writing is a mix of strengths and weaknesses. Working to improve your writing will definitely earn you more satisfactory results because your writing shows promise.**

In *one or more* of the following areas, your essay needs improvement. Your essay:

- Neglects or misinterprets important parts of the topic or task
- Lacks focus or is simplistic or confused in interpretation
- Is not organized or developed carefully from point to point
- Provides examples without explanation, or generalizations without completely supporting them
- Uses mostly simple sentences or language that does not serve your meaning
- Demonstrates errors in grammar, usage, or sentence structure

Score = 2 **You have work to do to improve your writing skills. You probably have not addressed the topic or communicated your ideas effectively. Your writing may be difficult to understand.**

In *one or more* of the following areas, your essay:

- Misunderstands the topic or neglects important parts of the task
- Does not coherently focus or communicate your ideas
- Is organized very weakly or doesn't develop ideas enough
- Generalizes and does not provide examples or support to make your points clear
- Uses sentences and vocabulary without control, which sometimes confuses rather than clarifies your meaning
- Contains too many errors in grammar, word usage, and sentence structure

Score = 1 **You have much work to do in order to improve your writing skills. You are not writing with complete understanding of the task, or you do not have much of a sense of what you need to do to write better. You need advice from a writing instructor and lots of practice.**

In *one or more* of the following areas, your essay:

- Misunderstands the topic or doesn't show that you comprehend the task fully
- Lacks focus, logic, or coherence
- Is undeveloped--there is no elaboration of your position
- Lacks support that is relevant
- Shows poor choices in language, mechanics, usage, or sentence structure which make your writing confusing