

Response to Writing Prompt

Scoring Guide

4 The essay —

- ✦ clearly addresses all parts of the writing task.
- ✦ provides a meaningful thesis and maintains a consistent tone and focus and purposefully illustrates a control of organization.
- ✦ thoughtfully supports the thesis and main ideas with specific details and examples.
- ✦ provides a variety of sentence types and uses precise, descriptive language.
- ✦ demonstrates a clear sense of audience.
- ✦ contains few, if any errors in the conventions of the English language. (Errors are generally first-draft in nature.)*

Persuasive compositions:

- ✦ authoritatively defends a position with precise and relevant evidence and convincingly addresses the readers' concerns, biases, and expectations.

3 The essay —

- ✦ addresses all parts of the writing task.
- ✦ provides a thesis and maintains a consistent tone and focus and illustrates a control of organization.
- ✦ supports the thesis and main ideas with details and examples.
- ✦ provides a variety of sentence types and uses some descriptive language.
- ✦ demonstrates a general sense of audience.
- ✦ contains some errors in the conventions of the English language. (Errors do **not** interfere with the readers' understanding of the essay.)*

Persuasive compositions:

- ✦ generally defends a position with relevant evidence and addresses the readers' concerns, biases, and expectations.

2 The essay —

- * addresses only parts of the writing task.
- * may provide a thesis and maintains an inconsistent tone and focus and illustrates little, if any control of organization.
- * may support the thesis and main ideas with limited, if any, details and/or examples.
- * provides few, if any, types of sentences, and uses basic, predictable language.
- * demonstrates little or **no** sense of audience.
- * contains several errors in the conventions of the English language. (Errors may interfere with the readers' understanding of the essay.)*

Persuasive compositions:

- * defends a position with little, if any, evidence and may address the readers' concerns, biases, and expectations.

1 The essay may be too short to evaluate or —

- * addresses only one part of the writing task.
- * may provide a weak, if any thesis; fails to maintain a focus, and illustrates little, or **no** control of organization.
- * fails to support ideas with details and/or examples.
- * provides **no** sentence variety and uses limited vocabulary.
- * demonstrates **no** sense of audience.
- * contains serious errors in the conventions of the English language. (Errors interfere with the readers' understanding of the essay.)*

Persuasive compositions:

- * fails to defend a position with any evidence and fails to address the readers' concerns, biases, and expectations.

non-scorable

B = Blank
T = Off-topic

L = Written in a language other than English
I = Illegible/Unintelligible

*Conventions of the English language refer to grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and usage.