

Essay Scoring Guide

ORGANIZATION

- 8/9** Clear, logical, fluid and follows format with artful transitions; focused on thesis
- 6/7** Logical; follows format with smooth transitions
- 5** Present, but there may be some confusion
- 3/4** Flawed; does not follow format; weak control

CRITICAL THINKING

- 8/9** Insightful, meaningful; demonstrates writer's ability to discuss and clearly analyze with insight, understanding, and control
- 6/7** Less thorough, less incisive, or less specific; demonstrates writer's ability to analyze literary work, but reveal a more limited understanding than 9/8 papers
- 5** Safe, plastic, superficial; reveals simplistic thinking and/or immature writing with thin, commonplace information that addresses prompt
- 3/4** Misinterpretations, underdeveloped or misguided; paraphrase and plot-summary at the expense of analysis

FACTUAL CONTENT

- 8/9** Skillful use of excellent concrete detail selection; documented correctly
- 6/7** Good concrete detail selection; documented correctly
- 5** Acceptable use of concrete detail selection; documented correctly
- 3/4** Weak and/or flawed concrete detail selection; doesn't support topic sentence / question

SENTENCE VARIETY / DICTION

- 8/9** Excellent, critical use of varied sentence structure; powerful, excellent word choice used correctly; wording is obviously well chosen
- 6/7** Good variety; good word choice used correctly which emphasizes the point
- 5** Limited with simple sentences; average, ordinary word choice or odd word choice; diction may be marred by repetitions and imprecision
- 3/4** Sentences are awkward, ambiguous, and/or confusing / little if any sentence variety; simple word choice; words used incorrectly; slang; odd phrasing

MECHANICS / REVISION

- 8/9** Superior paper with stylistic flair that expresses ideas with clarity and skill; excellent grammar, punctuation, spelling
- 6/7** Minimal / insignificant mechanical errors that do not detract from meaning
- 5** Mechanics and/or legibility is a consistent problem; repeats may be a concern
- 3/4** Essay is hard to understand due to grammar, mechanics, and/or legibility; evidence of careful proofreading is scanty, or nonexistent.

9/8 (A): Excellent / Powerful / Rich Content

38-45 Points: A

7/6 (B): Good / Solid

30-37 Points: B

5 (C): Adequate / Average

22-29 Points: C

4/3 (D): Demonstrates Problems / Rudimentary

15-21 Points: D