

Holistic Scoring Rubric for 6-Point Essay

Score	Ideas	Organization	Voice	Word Choice	Sentence Fluency	Conventions
6	Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position.	Is well organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas.	Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue.	Exhibits skillful use of language, using varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary.	Demonstrates meaningful variety in sentence structure.	Is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
5	Demonstrates competent critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position.	Is well organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and progression of ideas.	Effectively develops a point of view on the issue.	Exhibits facility in the use of language, using appropriate vocabulary.	Demonstrates variety in sentence structure.	Is generally free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
4	Demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position.	Is generally organized and focused, demonstrating some coherence and progression of ideas.	Develops a point of view on the issue.	Exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary.	Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure.	Has some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
3	Demonstrates some critical thinking, but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position.	Is limited in its organization or focus, or may demonstrate some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas.	Develops a point of view on the issue.	Displays developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes uses weak vocabulary or inappropriate word choice.	Lacks a variety or demonstrates problems in sentence structure.	Contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
2	Demonstrates weak critical thinking, providing inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position.	Is poorly organized and/or focused, or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progressions of ideas.	Develops point of view on the issue that is vague or seriously limited.	Displays very little facility in the use of language, using very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice.	Demonstrates frequent problems in sentence structure.	Contains errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics so serious that meaning is somewhat obscured.
1	Provides little or no evidence to support its position.	Is disorganized or unfocused, resulting in a disjointed or incoherent essay.	Develops no viable point of view on the issue.	Displays fundamental errors in vocabulary.	Demonstrates severe flaws in sentence structure.	Contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning.
0	This essay is not written on the assigned topic or there is no response.					