

Score and Description

6 **Excellent**

- Insightfully addresses all parts of the prompt
- Takes a clear position and develops it consistently with well-chosen reasons and/or examples across the response
- Well organized with strong transitions.
- Sustains variety in sentence structure and exhibits good word choice.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation are few and do not interfere with understanding

5 **Skillful**

- Fully addresses all parts of the prompt
- Takes a clear position and develops it with reasons and/or examples in parts of the response.
- Clearly organized, but may lack some transitions and/or have occasional lapses in continuity.
- Exhibits some variety in sentence structure and some good word choices.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation do not interfere with understanding.

4 **Sufficient**

- Addresses all parts of the prompt
- Takes a clear position and supports it with some reasons and/or examples.
- Organized with ideas that are generally related, but has few or no transitions.
- Exhibits control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure, but sentences and word choice may be simple and unvaried.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation do not interfere with understanding.

3 **Uneven**

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- May fail to address some parts of the prompt.
- Takes a position and offers support, but may be unclear, repetitive, list-like, or undeveloped.
- Unevenly organized; the response may be disjointed.
- Exhibits uneven control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; may have some inaccurate word choices.
- Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation sometimes interfere with understanding

2 **Insufficient**

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- Fails to address some parts of the prompt.
- Attempts to take a position (addresses topic) but is incoherent OR takes a position but provides no support; may only paraphrase the prompt.
- Very disorganized; thoughts are tenuously connected OR the response is too brief to detect organization.
- Minimal control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; word choice may often be inaccurate.
- Errors in grammar or usage (such as missing words or incorrect word use or word order), spelling, and punctuation interfere with understanding in much of the response.

1 **Unsatisfactory**

May be characterized by one or more of the following:

- Attempts to respond to prompt, but provides little or no coherent information; may only paraphrase the prompt.
- Has no apparent organization OR consists of a single statement.
- Minimal or no control over sentence boundaries and sentence structure; word choice may be inaccurate in much or all of the response.
- A multiplicity of errors in grammar or usage (such as missing words or incorrect word use or word order), spelling and punctuation severely impedes understanding across the response.

0 **Blank, completely illegible, or deliberately off-topic** (N/A on scanner)