

Writing Rubric Grades 5-12

SCORE POINT 6
<p>A Score Point 6 paper is rare. It fully accomplishes the task in a thorough and insightful manner and has a distinctive quality that sets it apart as an outstanding performance.</p>
Ideas and Content
<p>Does the writing fully accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion/argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Does it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present a unifying theme or main idea without going off on tangents? • stay completely focused on topic and task? <p>Does the writing include thorough, relevant, and complete ideas? Does it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include in-depth information and exceptional supporting facts and details that fully develop the topic? • fully explore many facets of the topic?
Organization
<p>Are the ideas in the writing organized logically? Does the writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present a meaningful, cohesive whole with a beginning, a middle, and an end (i.e., include an inviting introduction and a strong conclusion)? • progress in an order that enhances meaning? • include smooth transitions between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs to enhance meaning of text (i.e., have a clear connection of ideas and use topic sentences)?
Style
<p>Does the writing exhibit exceptional word usage? Does it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include vocabulary to make explanations detailed and precise, descriptions rich, and actions clear and vivid (e.g., varied word choices, action words, appropriate modifiers, sensory details)? • demonstrate control of a challenging vocabulary? <p>Does the writing demonstrate exceptional writing technique?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the writing exceptionally fluent? • Does it include varied sentence patterns, including complex sentences? • Does it demonstrate use of writer's techniques (e.g., literary conventions such as imagery and dialogue and/or literary genres such as humor and suspense)?
Voice
<p>Does the writing demonstrate effective adjustment of language and tone to task and reader? Does it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish and maintain a style appropriate to purpose? • demonstrate a strong sense of audience? • exhibit an original perspective (e.g., authoritative, lively, and/or exciting)?

SCORE POINT 5

A Score Point 5 paper represents a solid performance. It fully accomplishes the task, but lacks the overall level of sophistication and consistency of a Score Point 6 paper.

Ideas and Content

Does the writing fully accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion/argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Does it

- present a unifying theme or main idea without going off on tangents?
- stay focused on topic and task?

Does the writing include many relevant ideas? Does it

- provide in-depth information and more than adequate supporting facts and details that fully develop the topic?
- explore many facets of the topic?

Organization

Are the ideas in the writing organized logically? Does the writing

- present a meaningful, cohesive whole with a beginning, a middle, and an end (i.e., include a solid introduction and conclusion)?
- progress in an order that enhances meaning of text?
- include smooth transitions (e.g., use topic sentences) between sentences and paragraphs to enhance meaning of text? (Writing may have an occasional lapse.)

Style

Does the writing exhibit very good word usage? Does it

- include vocabulary to make explanations detailed and precise, descriptions rich, and actions clear and vivid?
- demonstrate control of vocabulary?

Does the writing demonstrate very good writing technique?

- Is the writing very fluent?
- Does it include varied sentence patterns, including complex sentences?
- Does it demonstrate use of writer's techniques (e.g., literary conventions such as imagery and dialogue and/or literary genres such as humor and suspense)?

Voice

Does the writing demonstrate effective adjustment of language and tone to task and reader? Does it

- establish and maintain a style appropriate to purpose?
- demonstrate a sense of audience?
- exhibit an original perspective (e.g., authoritative, lively, and/or exciting)?

SCORE POINT 4

A Score Point 4 paper represents a good performance. It accomplishes the task, but generally needs to exhibit more development, better organization, or a more sophisticated writing style to receive a higher score.

Ideas and Content

Does the writing accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion/argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Does it

- present a unifying theme or main idea? (Writing may include minor tangents.)
- stay mostly focused on topic and task?

Does the writing include relevant ideas? Does it

- include sufficient information with supporting facts and details that develop the topic? (Details may not be fully developed; ideas may be listed.)
- explore some facets of the topic?

Organization

Are the ideas in the writing organized logically? Does the writing

- present a meaningful whole with a beginning, a middle, and an end despite an occasional lapse (e.g., a weak introduction or conclusion)?
- generally progress in an order that enhances meaning of text?
- include transitions between sentences and paragraphs to enhance meaning of text? (Transitions may be rough, although some topic sentences are included.)

Style

Does the writing exhibit good word usage? Does it

- include vocabulary that is appropriately chosen, with words that clearly convey the writer's meaning?
- demonstrate control of basic vocabulary?

Does the writing demonstrate good writing technique?

- Is the writing fluent?
- Does it exhibit some varied sentence patterns, including some complex sentences?
- Does it demonstrate an attempt to use writer's techniques (e.g., literary conventions such as imagery and dialogue and/or literary genres such as humor and suspense)?

Voice

Does the writing demonstrate an attempt to adjust language and tone to task and reader? Does it

- establish and maintain a style mostly appropriate to purpose? (The writing may occasionally slip out of register.)
- demonstrate some sense of audience?
- attempt an original perspective?

SCORE POINT 3

A Score Point 3 paper represents a performance that minimally accomplishes the task. Some elements of development, organization, and writing style are weak.

Ideas and Content

Does the writing minimally accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion/argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Does it

- attempt a unifying theme or main idea?
- stay somewhat focused on topic and task?

Does the writing include some relevant ideas? Does it

- include some information with only a few details, or list ideas with minimal facts and supporting details to develop the topic?
- explore some facets of the topic?

Organization

Is there an attempt to logically organize ideas in the writing? Does the writing

- have a beginning, a middle, or an end that may be weak or absent?
- demonstrate an attempt to progress in an order that enhances meaning? (Progression of text may sometimes be unclear or out of order.)
- demonstrate an attempt to include transitions? (Are some topic sentences used? Are transitions between sentences and paragraphs weak or absent?)

Style

Does the writing exhibit ordinary word usage? Does it

- contain basic vocabulary, with words that are predictable and common?
- demonstrate some control of vocabulary?

Does the writing demonstrate average writing technique?

- Is the writing generally fluent?
- Does it contain mostly simple sentences (although there may be an attempt at more varied sentence patterns)?
- Is it generally ordinary and predictable?

Voice

Does the writing demonstrate an attempt to adjust language and tone to task and reader? Does it

- demonstrate difficulty establishing and maintaining a style appropriate to purpose?
- demonstrate little sense of audience?
- generally lack an original perspective?

SCORE POINT 2

A Score Point 2 paper represents a performance that only partially accomplishes the task. Some responses may exhibit difficulty maintaining a focus. Others may be too brief to provide sufficient development of the topic or evidence of adequate organizational or writing style.

Ideas and Content

Does the writing only partially accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion/argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Does it

- attempt a main idea?
- sometimes lose focus or ineffectively display focus?

Does the writing include few relevant ideas? Does it

- include little information and few or no facts and details to develop the topic?
- explore only one or two facets of the topic?

Organization

Is there a minimal attempt to logically organize ideas in the writing?

- Does the writing have only one or two of the three elements: beginning, middle, and end?
- Is the writing sometimes difficult to follow? (Progression of text may be confusing or unclear.)
- Are transitions weak or absent (e.g., few or no topic sentences)?

Style

Does the writing exhibit minimal word usage? Does it

- contain limited vocabulary? (Some words may be used incorrectly.)
- demonstrate minimal control of vocabulary?

Does the writing demonstrate minimal writing technique?

- Does the writing exhibit some fluency?
- Does it rely mostly on simple sentences?
- Is it often repetitive, predictable, or dull?

Voice

Does the writing demonstrate language and tone that may be inappropriate to task and reader? Does it

- demonstrate difficulty establishing a style appropriate to purpose?
- demonstrate little or no sense of audience?
- lack an original perspective?

SCORE POINT 1

A Score Point 1 paper represents a performance that fails to accomplish the task. It exhibits considerable difficulty in areas of development, organization, and writing style. The writing is generally either very brief or rambling and repetitive, sometimes resulting in a response that may be difficult to read or comprehend.

Ideas and Content

Does the writing fail to accomplish the task (e.g., support an opinion /argument, summarize, tell a story, or write an article)? Is it

- difficult for the reader to discern the main idea?
- too brief or too repetitive to establish or maintain a focus?

Does the writing include very few relevant ideas?

- Does it include little information with few or no facts and details or unrelated facts and details to develop the topic?
- Is it unsuccessful in attempts to explore any facets of the prompt?

Organization

Are the ideas in the writing organized illogically?

- Does it have only one or two of the three elements: beginning, middle, or end?
- Is it difficult to follow, with the order possibly difficult to discern?
- Are transitions weak or absent (e.g., without topic sentences)?

Style

Does the writing exhibit less than minimal word usage? Does it

- contain limited vocabulary, with many words used incorrectly?
- demonstrate minimal or less than minimal control of vocabulary?

Does the writing demonstrate less than minimal writing technique? Does it

- lack fluency?
- demonstrate problems with sentence patterns?
- consist of writing that is flat and lifeless?

Voice

Does the writing demonstrate language and tone that may be inappropriate to task and reader? Does it

- demonstrate inability to establish a style appropriate to purpose?
- demonstrate a lack of a sense of audience?
- lack an original perspective?