

Scoring Scale for Writing

Rating of “4” **Accomplished**

These papers **come alive, stand out, sparkle!** They demonstrate strength in virtually all the rating criteria. Although not flawless papers, they are substantial in content and original or creative in expression. Papers usually “show” much more than “tell.” They offer rich details and have a strong voice. Accomplished papers demonstrate a strong command of language and of writing conventions.

Rating of “3” **Proficient**

These papers demonstrate competence in most of the rating criteria. They show **solid writing ability and are interesting.** They have more strengths than weaknesses and are more specific than general. These writings include details and examples. Proficient papers have voice and a generally good command of language, including conventions.

Rating of “2” **Basic/Minimal**

Basic papers demonstrate some competence in most of the rating criteria, but have more weaknesses than strengths. They are **readable, but dull.** They generally lack details or examples, have little voice, and/or are less proficient in vocabulary and expression. These papers may also have problems with writing conventions.

Rating of “1” **Limited**

These papers fail to demonstrate competence in most of the rating criteria. Vocabulary is limited, dull, predictable. Typically, these papers are under-developed, vague, superficial, or seriously weakened by errors in writing conventions.

Rating of “X” **Unscorable**

These papers cannot be scored because they are illegible or do not deal with the topic.

	4 – Accomplished these come alive, stand out, sparkle!	3 – Proficient- solid writing, interesting	2 – Basic/Minimal readable, but dull; with work, could be OK	1 – Limited – not much to work with; reader working harder than writer
CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clear message - sufficient information - effective details - fresh or interesting look at topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clear message - enough information and/or details to convey writer's thoughts/feelings -appeals to reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -generally clear message (on topic) -few details, little information (tell me more) -boring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -barely on topic - little/no information or details
ORGANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grabbing lead - solid middle - strong ending - ideas in order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -effective beginning, - middle develops ideas , - has clear ending - Ideas in order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - weak or missing beginning, middle, end - hard to follow -needs re-reading to follow thought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - little or no apparent order -difficult or unable to follow thought
VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lively or engaging in some way - distinctive personal tone -brings topic to life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conveys interest or personal involvement with topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shows little interest or personal engagement with topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shows no personal interest or engagement with topic
VOCABULARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - well-chosen, specific nouns, lively verbs - conveys vivid word picture - natural (does not appear contrived) - striking words or phrases - word choice enhances meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective nouns and verbs - word choice conveys appropriate meaning - adds interest to composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - word choice adequate but predictable; lacks variety and interest - verbs, nouns common or over-used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - word choice highly predictable, vague, simplistic; dull and lack-luster.
FLUENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentence structures vary in length and length - smooth transitions - natural rhythm and flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some variety in sentence patterns and length - adequate transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - little variety in sentence structures and length; can be choppy, awkward - weak transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lacks variety in sentence structure and length; repetitive - transitions missing
CONVENTIONS (paragraphs, capitals, punctuation, spelling, usage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - few or no errors; errors do not hinder message - uses more sophisticated conventions, including dialogue, purposeful use of fragments, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some errors, but errors do not hinder message* - uses appropriate literary conventions, such as dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some errors that hinder message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - frequent errors, or errors that obscure message