

Argument/Opinion Essay: Holistic Writing Rubric

Score 4: The response is a well-developed essay that develops and supports an argument.

- Effectively introduces a claim
- Uses logical, credible, and relevant reasoning and evidence to support claim
- Uses an organizational strategy to present reasons and relevant evidence
- Acknowledges and counters opposing claims, as appropriate
- Uses precise and purposeful word choice
- Uses words, phrases, and/or clauses that effectively connect and show relationships among ideas
- Uses and maintains an appropriate tone
- Provides a strong concluding statement or section that logically follows from the ideas presented
- Has no errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 3: The response is a complete essay that develops and supports an argument.

- Clearly introduces a claim
- Uses reasoning and evidence to support claim
- Uses an organizational structure to present reasons and relevant evidence
- Attempts to acknowledge and/or counter opposing claims, as appropriate
- Uses clear word choice
- Uses words and/or phrases to connect ideas
- Uses an appropriate tone
- Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the ideas presented
- Has few, if any, errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Argument/Opinion Essay: Holistic Writing Rubric

Score:2: The response is an incomplete or oversimplified essay that develops and supports an argument.

- Attempts to establish a claim
- Develops, sometimes unevenly, reasons and/or evidence to support claim
- Attempts to use an organizational structure
- Makes little, if any, attempt to acknowledge or counter opposing claims
- Uses simple language, which sometimes lacks clarity
- Provides a weak concluding statement or section
- May have errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 1: The response provides evidence of an attempt to write an essay that offers an argument.

- Weakly states or alludes to a claim
- Has minimal support for claim
- May be too brief to demonstrate an organizational structure
- Makes no attempt to acknowledge or counter opposing claims
- Uses words that are inappropriate, overly simple, or unclear
- Provides a minimal or no concluding statement or section
- Has errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 0: The response is completely irrelevant or incorrect, or there is no response.

Informative/Explanatory Essay: Holistic Writing Rubric

Score 4: The response is a well-developed essay that examines a topic and presents related information.

- Effectively introduces the topic to be examined
- Uses specific facts, details, definitions, examples, and/or other information to develop topic fully
- Uses an organizational strategy to present information effectively
- Uses precise and purposeful word choice
- Uses words, phrases, and/or clauses that effectively connect and show relationships among ideas
- Uses and maintains an appropriate tone
- Provides a strong concluding statement or section that logically follows from the ideas presented
- Has no errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 3: The response is a complete essay that examines a topic and presents information.

- Clearly introduces the topic to be examined
- Uses multiple pieces of relevant information to develop topic
- Uses an organizational structure to group information
- Uses clear word choice
- Uses words and/or phrases to connect ideas
- Uses an appropriate tone
- Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the ideas presented
- Has few, if any, errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Informative/Explanatory Essay: Holistic Writing Rubric

Score 2: The response is an incomplete or oversimplified essay that examines a topic.

- Attempts to introduce a topic
- Develops topic, sometimes unevenly, with mostly relevant information
- Attempts to use an organizational structure
- Uses simple language, which sometimes lacks clarity
- Provides a weak concluding statement or section
- May have errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 1: The response provides evidence of an attempt to write an essay that examines a topic.

- May not introduce a topic, or topic must be inferred
- Provides minimal information to develop the topic
- May be too brief to demonstrate an organizational structure
- Uses words that are inappropriate, overly simple, or unclear
- Provides a minimal or no concluding statement or section
- Has errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning

Score 0: The response is completely irrelevant or incorrect, or there is no response.