

Holistic Scoring Criteria

Delaware Student Testing Program

The following characteristics determine the success of the response in meeting the needs of the audience and fulfilling the writing purpose:

| Score of 5 | Score of 4 | Score of 3 | Score of 2 | Score of 1 |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Score point 5 meets all the criteria listed in score point 4. In addition, a paper receiving this score shows an exceptional awareness of readers' concerns and needs. It may demonstrate an unusual pattern or framework in which to embed information. | Unified with smooth transitions, a clear and logical progression of ideas, and an effective introduction and closing. Sufficient, specific, and relevant details that are fully elaborated. | Generally unified with some transitions, a clear progression of ideas, and an introduction and closing. Specific details but may be insufficient, irrelevant, or not fully elaborated. | Minimally unified and may lack transitions or an introduction or closing. Some specific details but may be insufficient, irrelevant, and/or not elaborated. | Lacks unity. Few or no specific details that are minimally elaborated. |
| The writer is extremely verbose in presenting information, including irrelevant material and would clutter the writing. | Consistently complete sentences with appropriate variety in length and structure. A consistent style with precise and vivid word choice. | Generally complete sentences with sufficient variety in length and structure. Some style and generally precise word choice. | Some sentence formation errors and a lack of sentence variety. Sometimes general and repetitive word choice. | Frequent and severe sentence formation errors and/or a lack of sentence variety. |
| | Few, if any, errors in standard written English that do not interfere with understanding. | Some errors in standard written English that rarely interfere with understanding. | Several kinds of errors in standard written English that interfere with understanding. | Frequent and severe errors in standard written English that interfere with understanding. |

For non-scorable responses see below:

- Blank
- Off topic
- Incoherent, foreign language
- Refusal
- Illegible
- Insufficient