

## Holistic Scoring Guide

4

The paper has an effective beginning, middle, and end and uses paragraphing effectively. It contains a strong controlling idea, progresses in a logical order and uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, parallel structure) between and within paragraphs. It clearly addresses the topic and provides convincing elaboration through specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples. It uses precise and vivid language, contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure and effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice). It shows complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspective and clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose. It contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

## Holistic Scoring Guide

3

The paper has a clear beginning, middle, and end and uses paragraphing appropriately. It contains a controlling idea, generally progresses in a logical order and contains cohesive devices between and within paragraphs. It addresses the topic using relevant details, reasons and examples. It uses precise language, contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure, and uses writing techniques. It shows some complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective and an awareness of audience and purpose. It may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

## Holistic Scoring Guide

2

The paper has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end and shows evidence of paragraphing. It may contain a sense of direction but may lack focus, not progress in a logical order, and may not use cohesive devices. It addresses the topic but relies on generalities (lists) rather than specifics (development). It may use imprecise language and contain sentences that are generally clear but may lack variety and complexity. It attempts to use some writing techniques, but may lack complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective. It shows some awareness of audience and purpose, but contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

## Holistic Scoring Guide

1

The paper may lack evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end and of paragraphing. It is difficult to follow, as it lacks focus, cohesion, does not progress in a logical order and may digress to unrelated topics. It may address the topic but lacks details. The paper uses imprecise language, contains sentences that lack variety and clarity, and shows little or no evidence of writing techniques. It lacks complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspectives, along with little or no awareness of audience or purpose. The paper contains repeated error in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.