

## Holistic and Analytic Scoring Definitions

### Definition of Holistic Scoring

Holistic scoring is a method by which trained readers evaluate a piece of writing for its overall quality. The holistic scoring requires readers to evaluate the work as a whole, while considering the major elements of content, organization, voice, word choice, sentence structure, and use of conventions. In this type of scoring, readers are trained not to become overly concerned with any one aspect of writing but to look at a response as a whole.

### Definition of Analytic Scoring

Analytic scoring guides are designed to rate papers on separate criteria. Where holistic scoring assigns a single score that represents a weighing of all the different factors addressed by the scoring guide, an analytic score might assign a high score to one factor, such as “structure,” and a lower score to another, such as “conventions.” Analytic scoring may be slower than holistic, but provides more feedback.

**Note:** A holistic score is not a summation or averaging of the analytic scores, but a reflection of the overall effect of the writing.