

Nevada Writing Proficiency Examination

Grade 8 Holistic Rubric

<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "SIX"</p> <p>A six paper is superior. It demonstrates skillful and purposeful control. It exemplifies ALL OR MOST of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses and develops insightful ideas in a detailed, sustained, and compelling manner • Organizes ideas coherently and logically, using structure to enhance the main idea • Demonstrates sustained commitment to the topic; uses word choice with purpose and control to engage the audience • Commits few, if any, errors in Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics; uses multiple sentence structures that enhance stylistic effect 	<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "FIVE"</p> <p>A five paper is clearly above average. It goes beyond the predictable and is controlled. It displays ALL OR MOST of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses and develops ideas in an effective and detailed manner, using clear, relevant examples, explanations, and/or information • Organizes ideas coherently and logically, using a structure that supports the main idea • Communicates commitment to the topic; uses effective word choice to involve the audience • Commits few errors in Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics; uses varied sentence structures that contribute to style 	<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "FOUR"</p> <p>A four paper is adequate or satisfactory. It exhibits ALL OR MOST of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses and develops ideas with mostly relevant information, explanations, and/or examples • Organizes ideas in a satisfactory manner, using reasonable coherence and logic • Communicates some commitment to the topic; uses adequate word choice to address audience and purpose • Commits some errors in Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics that do not impede meaning; uses varied but generally predictable sentence structures
<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "THREE"</p> <p>A three paper is inadequate. It shows a limited or inconsistent understanding of writing. It illustrates SOME OR ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the topic, but may display irrelevant examples, explanations, and/or information • Displays some organization; shows some digression or rambling; lacks logic and coherence • Demonstrates inconsistent commitment to the topic; attempts to involve the audience; uses simplistic, imprecise, or improper words • Commits consistent violations in Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics that may impede meaning; uses sentence structure that is limited and/or simplistic 	<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "TWO"</p> <p>A two paper is very weak. It reveals serious and persistent problems in communication. It illustrates SOME OR ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to address the topic with little or no focus; lists examples, explanations, and/or information; shows vague or no support; repetitious • Contains serious flaws in structure, organization, and coherence • Attempts but does not involve the audience appropriately; uses limited or inappropriate word choice • Commits consistent violations in Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics that often impede meaning; uses sentence structure that is very limited, simplistic, and/or incorrect 	<p style="text-align: center;">SCORE "ONE"</p> <p>A one paper is extremely weak. It has few redeeming qualities. It at least mentions the topic, but generally fails to communicate with the reader. It illustrates SOME OR ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeats the topic with no details, examples, or explanations • Shows little or no structure, organization, or coherence • Fails to address the audience; uses very limited word choice • Overwhelms the reader with serious violations of Standard English grammar/usage and mechanics; uses sentence structure that is limited or non-existent

The primary purpose of this rubric is to score the Grade 8 Nevada Writing Proficiency Exams. However, classroom teachers should use the rubric to ensure that students are familiar with the evaluation criteria used on the exams and to improve student writing.

