

NEVADA STATE WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
ANALYTIC SCORING GUIDE*

ORGANIZATION

5: The organization enhances and showcases the central idea or thesis. The order or structure is compelling and moves the reader through the text.

- Organization flows so smoothly the reader hardly thinks about it.
- An inviting introduction draws the reader in, and a satisfying conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of completion.
- Details seem to fit where they're placed; sequencing or structure is logical and effective.
- Transitions are smooth and weave the separate threads of meaning into a cohesive whole.
- Progression of ideas is very well controlled; the writer delivers needed information at just the right moment and then moves on.

3: The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader from point to point with minimal confusion.

- The organization, despite a few problems, does not seriously get in the way of the main point or storyline.
- The paper has a recognizable introduction and conclusion. The introduction may not create a strong sense of anticipation; the conclusion may not leave the reader with a sense of completion.
- Sequencing or structure is usually logical. It may sometimes be too obvious or create some confusion.
- Transitions often work well; however, some connections between ideas may be weak or may call for inferences.
- Progression of ideas is fairly well controlled, although the writer sometimes spurts ahead too quickly or spends too much time on the obvious.

1: The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details, or events seem strung together in a random, haphazard manner or list, or else there is no identifiable internal structure at all. More than one of the following problems is likely to be evident:

- Lack of organization makes it hard for the reader to understand the main point or storyline.
- The writer has not yet drafted a real lead or conclusion.
- Sequencing of details is limited or nonexistent.
- Transitions are vague or missing; connections between ideas are confusing or incomplete.
- Progression of ideas is not controlled; too much time is spent on minor details, or there are hard-to-follow leaps from point to point.

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