

Multi-Paragraph Composition Scoring Guide

6
Wow!

Your composition is engaging and developed with originality and flair. The writing is consistently strong in content and expression.

Content—what is said:

- introduction captures the audience’s attention with an imaginative lead
- thesis is clearly articulated, engaging, and developed throughout the composition
- paragraphs are well-developed with insightful support and organized for an intentional effect
- concluding paragraph is original, creative, and discerning; it presents a convincing, final statement

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- writing is focused and on topic, with strong voice and expression
- sophisticated vocabulary and effective word choice
- sentence structure is varied and controlled; transitional and topic sentences are well executed
- few mechanical or spelling errors

5
Strong!

Your composition is effective and has a clear sense of purpose; however, there are areas of minor weakness that could be further polished.

Content—what is said:

- introduction directs the reader to the topic in an interesting way
- thesis argues a clear point and is developed through the composition
- paragraphs are well-developed with appropriate support and logical organization
- concluding paragraph engages/captivates the reader; it presents a convincing, final statement

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- writing is focused and on topic
- vocabulary and word choice are appropriate
- sentence structure is varied and competent; transitional and topic sentences are used carefully
- mechanical or spelling errors are minor and do not interfere with understanding

4
Good!

Your composition is competent and straightforward; there are areas of weakness that could be developed with more originality of thought or expression.

Content—what is said:

- introduction states the main idea of the composition but may be predictable
- thesis is simply expressed and developed through the composition
- paragraphs exist with adequate support and are organized logically
- concluding paragraph makes a final statement but is predictable in its ideas

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- writing is generally clear and remains on topic
- vocabulary and word choice are simple but correct
- sentence structure is correct, but simple; transitional and topic sentences are predictable
- some mechanical or spelling errors are present but do not affect understanding

3
A Pass!

Your composition is passable and basic; areas of weakness are obvious.

Content—what is said:

- introduction is present but is unimaginative; may be linked to first body paragraph
- thesis is apparent but weak or not directly supported by the composition
- paragraphs may be brief, unimaginative, or off topic; organization is difficult to follow
- concluding paragraph makes a final statement but is predictable

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- writing is unfocused but attempts to address the topic
- vocabulary is basic and repetitive
- sentence structure is awkward or simplistic; transitional and topic sentences may not be effective
- mechanical or spelling errors are present but do not affect meaning

2
Almost

Your composition is weak and under-developed. More attention to developing ideas and structuring the composition are required.

Content—what is said:

- introduction is not present or is mixed into the main body of the composition
- thesis is suggested but not clearly stated or developed
- paragraphs may be too poorly developed or organized to communicate meaning
- concluding paragraph is not present or mixed into a body paragraph

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- writing is unfocused and often unclear
- vocabulary is informal and often colloquial
- simple sentence forms predominate; transitional sentences are not present
- numerous mechanical or spelling errors disrupt the flow of the writing

1
Not Yet

Your composition is inaccurate or incomplete.

Content—what is said:

- no attempt to include an introduction and conclusion to frame the composition
- structure is very weak—very brief or single paragraph
- ideas are poorly developed with little sequence or logic

Written Expression—how it’s said:

- controlling idea and purpose are not clear
- vocabulary is immature or vague; word choice is not appropriate
- frequent grammar or spelling errors impede understanding

0
Not At All

The composition is too brief to evaluate or not present at all.