

Scoring Guideline: GRE Argument

Score = 6

A 6 paper presents a cogent, well-articulated critique of the argument and conveys meaning skillfully.

A typical paper in this category:

- * clearly identifies important features of the argument and analyzes them insightfully
- * develops ideas cogently, organizes them logically, and connects them with clear transitions
- * effectively supports the main points of the critique
- * demonstrates control of language, including appropriate word choice and sentence variety
- * demonstrates facility with the conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, and mechanics) of standard written English but may have minor errors

Score = 5

A 5 paper presents a generally thoughtful, well-developed critique of the argument and conveys meaning clearly.

A typical paper in this category:

- * clearly identifies important features of the argument and analyzes them in a generally perceptive way
- * develops ideas clearly, organizes them logically, and connects them with appropriate transitions
- * sensibly supports the main points of the critique
- * demonstrates control of language, including appropriate word choice and sentence variety
- * demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English but may have minor errors

Score = 4

A 4 paper presents a competent critique of the argument and conveys meaning adequately.

A typical paper in this category:

- * identifies and analyzes important features of the argument
- * develops and organizes ideas satisfactorily but may not connect them with transitions
- * supports the main points of the critique
- * demonstrates sufficient control of language to express ideas with reasonable clarity
- * generally demonstrates control of the conventions of standard written English but may have some errors

Score = 3

A 3 paper demonstrates some competence in its critique of the argument and in conveying meaning but is obviously flawed.

A typical paper in this category exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- * does not identify or analyze most of the important features of the argument, although some analysis of the argument is present
- * mainly analyzes tangential or irrelevant matters, or reasons poorly
- * is limited in the logical development and organization of ideas
- * offers support of little relevance and value for points of the critique
- * lacks clarity in expressing ideas
- * contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that can interfere with meaning

Score = 2

A 2 paper demonstrates serious weaknesses in analytical writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- * does not present a critique based on logical analysis, but may instead present the writer's own views on the subject
- * does not develop ideas, or is disorganized and illogical
- * provides little, if any, relevant or reasonable support
- * has serious problems in the use of language and in sentence structure that frequently interfere with meaning
- * contains serious errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that frequently obscure meaning

Score = 1

A 1 paper demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits MORE THAN ONE of the following characteristics:

- * provides little or no evidence of the ability to understand and analyze the argument
- * provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response
- * has severe problems in language and sentence structure that persistently interfere with meaning
- * contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that result in incoherence