

Scoring Guideline: Middle School

Score = 6

Excellent

- * Develops ideas well and uses many specific details related to the topic.
- * Is well organized with clear transitions; maintains focus.
- * Sustains varied sentence structure.
- * Exhibits specific word choices.
- * Contains little or no errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation; errors do not interfere with understanding.

Persuasive mode

- * Clearly states the position and effectively persuades the reader of a certain viewpoint.

Score = 5

Skillful

- * Develops ideas with some specific details.
- * Is clearly organized; information is presented in an orderly way, but essay may lack transitions.
- * Exhibits some variety in sentence structure.
- * Contains some specific word choices.
- * May contain some errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation; errors do not interfere with understanding.

Persuasive mode

- * Clearly states the position and persuades the reader.

Score = 4

Sufficient

- * Provides clear ideas, but not fully developed; may have few details.
- * Provides a clear sequence of information; provides pieces of information that are generally related to each other.
- * Generally has simple sentences; may exhibit uneven control over sentence structure.
- * Contains mostly simple word choices, but may display some specific word choices.
- * Contains errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation that generally do not interfere with understanding.

Persuasive mode

- * States a position and adequately attempts to persuade the reader.

Score = 3

Uneven

- * Provides limited or incomplete information; may be list-like or have the quality of an outline.
- * Is disorganized or provides a disjointed sequence of information.
- * Exhibits uneven control over sentence structure.
- * May have some inaccurate word choices.
- * Contains errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation that sometimes interfere with understanding.

Persuasive mode

- * While a position is stated, either it is unclear or undeveloped.

Score = 2

Insufficient

- * Provides little information and makes little attempt at development.
- * Is very disorganized or too brief to detect organization.
- * Exhibits little control over sentence structure.
- * Contains inaccurate word choices in much of the essay.
- * Is characterized by misspellings, missing words, and incorrect word order; errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are severe enough to make understanding very difficult in much of the essay.

Persuasive mode

- * Either a position is not clearly given or little attempt is made at persuasion.

Score = 1

Unsatisfactory

- * Attempts a response, but may only restate the prompt or be extremely brief.
- * Exhibits no control over organization.
- * Exhibits no control over sentence structure.
- * Contains inaccurate word choices in most of the essay.
- * Is characterized by misspellings, missing words, and incorrect word order; errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation severely interfere with understanding throughout the essay.

Persuasive mode

- * Little effort is made to persuade, either because there is no position taken or no support is given.