

HiSET® Program Language Arts — Writing Test

Writing Response Scoring Guide

Score	Explanation
1	<p>INADEQUATE COMPETENCE</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate inadequate competence in writing an argument on a given topic.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides little or no evidence of understanding the topic • may present a position on the topic but provides little evidence of the ability to develop or organize a response • copies and/or paraphrases all ideas from the provided texts • 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
2	<p>LIMITED COMPETENCE</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate limited competence in writing an argument on a given topic. Their positions may be unclear, and they may develop their positions with little relevant reasoning or support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is unclear or seriously limited in presenting or developing a position on the topic • provides few relevant reasons or examples in support of its claims and/or may rely too heavily on the texts without integrating or interpreting the text information • is poorly focused and/or poorly organized • has serious problems in language and sentence structure that can interfere with meaning • contains serious errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that may obscure meaning

Score	Explanation
3	<p>SOME COMPETENCE</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate some competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with reasoning that may lack clarity and with support that may lack development or that is vague.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an evident position on the topic, but it may be vague • presents generalizations without specific support or reasons simplistically when developing a position; may use examples from the provided texts, but fails to integrate or misconstrues the meaning of some of them • may lack focus and/or clear organization in places or may lack connections or transitions between ideas • has problems in language and sentence structure that result in a lack of clarity • contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that can interfere with meaning
4	<p>COMPETENT</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with generally clear reasoning and relevant support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents a generally clear position on the topic • develops a position using some relevant reasons or examples from the provided texts and/or personal experience, although some support may be uneven • maintains adequate focus and organization, although transitions may be simple • demonstrates satisfactory control of language, conveying ideas with acceptable clarity • generally demonstrates competent control of the conventions of standard written English but may have some errors

Score	Explanation
5	<p>CLEARLY COMPETENT</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate clear competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with valid and reasoned support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulates a generally clear and considered position on the topic • develops a position well, using generally sound reasoning or examples integrated from the provided texts and/or personal experience • presents a focused and generally well-organized position, connecting ideas appropriately • conveys ideas clearly, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety • demonstrates clear competency with the conventions of standard written English but may have minor errors
6	<p>HIGHLY COMPETENT</p> <p><i>Essays at this score point demonstrate a high degree of competence in writing an argument on a given topic and develop their positions with effective and well-reasoned support.</i></p> <p>A typical response in this category largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulates a clear and well-considered position on the topic • develops a position effectively and sufficiently, using generally persuasive reasoning or examples integrated from the provided texts and/or personal experience • presents a coherently organized position, connecting ideas effectively • conveys ideas precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety • demonstrates a high degree of competence with the conventions of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage and mechanics) but may have minor errors