

Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Domain Scoring Guide

DOMAIN>	Focus	Content	Organization	Style	Conventions
S C O R E	The single controlling point made with an awareness of purpose about a specific topic. (thesis statement)	The presence of ideas developed through facts, examples, anecdotes, details, opinions, statistics reasons and/or conclusion.	The order developed & sustained within & across paragraphs using transitions including introduction and conclusion.	The choice, use and arrangement of words sentence structures that create author voice & tone.	The use of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, and sentence structure.
4	Sharp, distinct controlling point (thesis) made about a single topic with evident awareness of purpose.	Substantial, specific and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development & sophisticated ideas.	Meaningful arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions.	Precise, illustrative use of variety of words & sentence structures to create consistent writer voice & tone appropriate to audience.	Evident control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation.
3	Apparent point made about a single topic (thesis) with sufficient awareness of purpose.	Sufficiently developed content with adequate support, elaboration or explanation.	Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions.	Generic use of a variety of words & sentence structures that may or may not create writer voice & tone appropriate to audience.	Sufficient control of grammar mechanics, spelling, usage & sentence formation.
2	No apparent point (thesis) but evidence of a specific topic.	Limited content with inadequate elaboration or explanation.	Confused or inconsistent arrangement of content with or without attempts at transition.	Limited word choice & control of sentence structures that inhibit voice and tone.	Limited control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage & sentence formation.
1	Minimal evidence of a topic.	Superficial and/or minimal content.	Minimal control of content arrangement.	Minimal variety in word choice & minimal control of sentence structures.	Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, & sentence formation.

Non-Scoreable

Off-Prompt

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| <p>0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is illegible i.e. includes so many indecipherable words that no sense can be made of the response. • Is incoherent i.e. words are legible but word order is so garbled that response makes no sense. • Is insufficient i.e. does not include enough to assess domains adequately • Is a blank paper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is readable but did not respond to prompt |
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