

Narrative Essays

Fictional, Autobiographical, Biographical, Short Stories

A score point 6 paper addresses all parts of the writing task/prompt. It will include all or most of the following:

- a clear and consistent focus that holds reader's attention
- fresh/original ideas that demonstrate striking insight
- consistent and appropriate point of view
- clear sense of audience
- voice that demonstrates a connection to the essay and is passionate and compelling
- development with significant and intriguing details, quotations, examples, and other evidence that create richness
- thoughtful structure that enhances the meaning of the text, including flashback and interior monologue where appropriate
- authentic dialogue
- transitions that connect ideas and provide coherence
- an introduction that attracts/engages the reader
- an effective ending
- correctly crafted, rich sentences that vary in structure
- mature and evocative vocabulary that is precise, delightful, original; concrete and vivid sensory detail
- no errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and grammar; conventions applied to bring out meaning

A score point 5 paper addresses all parts of the writing task/prompt. It has the same general features as a 6 score point paper, but it represents a somewhat less accomplished performance. It will include all or most of the following:

- a clear and consistent focus
- ideas that demonstrate insight
- voice that is individual and expressive; well suited to topic, audience, and purpose
- development with details, quotations, examples, and other evidence that is authentic and convincing
- a structure that is evident, but not overbearing and that enhances the meaning of the text using flashback and interior monologue where appropriate
- believable and convincing dialogue
- transitions that connect ideas and provide coherence
- an introduction that attracts/engages the reader
- an effective ending
- correctly crafted sentences that vary in structure and length
- mature vocabulary that is precise, vivid, natural; concrete sensory detail

- minor errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and grammar that are easily overlooked

A score point 4 paper addresses all parts of the writing task/prompt. It will include all or most of the following:

- a fairly clear focus that may occasionally become obscured
- adequate handling of the topic, but may be unimaginative
- voice comes and goes; tone acceptable for topic, audience, and purpose
- predictable feelings with moments of individual sparkle
- some superficial development with details, quotations, examples, and/or other evidence, but quality support outweighs generalities; dialogue may be pedestrian
- a structure that is supportive, but occasionally predictable; the sequence of events may not be clear to the reader
- transitions that connect ideas
- an appropriate introduction and ending
- some variety in length and structure of sentences
- appropriate vocabulary with occasional words meant to impress the reader; promising moments that may not include detailed sensory language; tells more than shows
- noticeable, but minor errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and grammar that do not obscure meaning

A score point 3 paper addresses most or all parts of the writing task/prompt. It will include all or most of the following:

- a vague focus that may contain irrelevant details or digressions
- addresses the topic, but is marked by flat, superficial content
- hints of voice, but occasionally questionable tone for topic, purpose, and audience
- sense of audience is fuzzy
- predictable feelings
- little important supporting evidence, evidence that does not sufficiently develop ideas, or generalities that outweigh quality; does not use dialogue or dialogue seems added on
- some out of place information; sequence not made clear
- formulaic transitions
- an attempt at an introduction and an ending
- some sentence errors with little sentence variety; mechanical
- general or ordinary vocabulary that is vague or flat; incorrect use may distract from message; does not specify specific places
- noticeable, distracting errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and grammar that may lead to confusion and affect meaning

A score point 2 paper addresses some of the writing task/prompt. It will include all or most of the following:

- a vague focus that contains irrelevant details or digressions

- a marginal discussion on the topic
- distant, overly formal or informal voice; tone inappropriate for topic and purpose
- minimal or no sense of audience
- insufficient or irrelevant evidence or evidence that is not plausible; ignores or minimally develops dialogue
- structure that needs much reordering; no clear sequence of events
- few transitions
- no introduction and/or ending
- mostly simple sentences; awkward construction; choppy or rambling
- limited word choice that is flat and dull or monotonous; words used incorrectly; no language to develop sense of setting
- frequent, distracting errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and grammar that lead to confusion

A score point 1 paper minimally addresses the writing task/prompt. It will include all or most of the following:

- no discernible idea
- no sense of voice; difficult to discern or describe
- no concern for audience
- no recognizable structure or sequence of events
- minimal or nonexistent details that may seem to be notes and/or random thoughts; ignores narrative elements
- few transitions
- no introduction and/or ending
- only simple sentences; disjointed, confusing, incomplete
- basic vocabulary; words may seem chosen at random; a failure to communicate; no sense of setting
- serious, frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar in almost every sentence

A score point 0 paper is

- illegible
- unrelated to topic
- only a rewording of the prompt
- not written at all