



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
<p>3</p>	<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
<p>4</p>	<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
<p>5</p>	<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
<p>6</p>	<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