

Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Domain Scoring Guide

FOCUS	CONTENT	ORGANIZATION	STYLE	CONVENTIONS
The single controlling point made with an awareness of task about a specific topic	The presence of ideas developed through facts, examples, anecdotes, details, opinions, statistics, reasons, and/or explanations	The order developed and sustained within and across paragraphs using transitional devices and including introduction and conclusion	The choice, use and arrangement of words and sentence structures that create tone and voice	Grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation
Sharp, distinct controlling point made about a single topic with evident awareness of task (mode)	Substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development and sophisticated ideas	Sophisticated arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions	Precise, illustrative use of a variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience	Evident control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation
Apparent point made about a single topic with sufficient awareness of task (mode)	Sufficiently developed content with adequate elaboration or explanation	Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions	Generic use of a variety of words and sentence structures that may or may not create writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience	Sufficient control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation
No apparent point 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 and control of sentence structures that inhibit voice and tone	Limited control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation
Minimal evidence of a topic	Superficial and/or minimal content	Minimal control of content arrangement	Minimal variety in word choice and minimal control of sentence structures	Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation

NON-SCORABLE

- 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 syntax is so garbled that response makes no sense
- Is insufficient; i.e., does not include enough to assess domains adequately
- Is a blank paper

OFF-PROMPT

- Is readable but did not respond to prompt

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