

## Scoring Guide for Writing

### Score of 5

**This response demonstrates consistent mastery, although it may have minor errors. This response**

- effectively states and develops a claim, provides strong insights, and uses well-chosen detail to achieve its purpose.
- is well organized, focused, and coherent.
- uses language and vocabulary purposefully.
- varies sentence structure skillfully.
- is generally free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

### Score of 4

**This response demonstrates adequate mastery with occasional lapses in quality. This response**

- states and develops a claim, exhibits sound thinking, and uses appropriate supporting detail.
- is generally organized, focused, and coherent.
- generally uses language and vocabulary effectively.
- demonstrates some variety in sentence structure.
- may have some errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.

### Score of 3

**This response demonstrates partial mastery, but it has *one or more* flaws. This response**

- states and develops a claim but needs more consistent thinking and supporting detail.
- sometimes lacks organization, focus, and coherence.
- generally uses language coherently, but some word choices are vague or inappropriate.
- has little variety in sentence structure or has some sentence errors.
- may contain a number of errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.

### Score of 2

**This response demonstrates little mastery and is marred by *one or more* weaknesses. This response**

- has a vague or limited claim, weak thinking, and inappropriate or insufficient supporting detail.
- is poorly organized, lacking focus and coherence.
- uses limited language and vocabulary or incorrect word choice.
- demonstrates simplistic or incorrect sentence structure.
- contains errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that sometimes hamper meaning.

### Score of 1

**This response demonstrates a lack of mastery and serious flaws. This response**

- does not state or develop a claim and provides little, if any, supporting detail.
- is disorganized, rambling, or incoherent.
- has numerous errors in vocabulary and use of language.
- has serious flaws in sentence structure.
- contains numerous errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that consistently hamper meaning.

### Score of 0

- **No response or a response that is completely irrelevant will receive a score of zero.**