

CSU English Placement Test Scoring Guide

	6 Superior	5 Strong	4 Proficient	3 Limited	2 Inadequate	1 Fundamentally Flawed
Descriptors of Writing Performance	A 6 essay is superior writing, but may have minor flaws.	A 5 essay demonstrates clear competence in writing. It may have some errors, but they are not serious enough to distract or confuse the reader.	A 4 essay demonstrates adequate writing. It may have some problems, but they do not interfere with understanding.	A 3 essay demonstrates developing writing, but has some significant problems.	A 2 essay demonstrates serious writing problems.	A 1 essay demonstrates fundamental writing problems.
Response to the Topic	addresses the topic clearly and responds effectively to all aspects of the task	addresses the topic clearly, but may respond to some aspects of the task more effectively than others	addresses the topic, but may not respond to all parts of the task thoroughly	misunderstands or does not respond to all parts of the task	indicates confusion about the topic or neglects important aspects of the task	fails to respond meaningfully to the topic
Understanding and Use of the Passage	demonstrates a thorough critical understanding of the passage in developing an insightful response	demonstrates a sound critical understanding of the passage in developing a well-reasoned response	demonstrates a generally accurate understanding of the passage in developing a reasonable response	demonstrates a limited understanding of the passage, or makes poor use of it in developing a weak response	demonstrates very poor understanding of the main points of the passage, does not use the passage appropriately in developing a response, or may not use the passage at all	demonstrates little or no understanding of the passage or does not use it to respond to the topic
Quality and Clarity of Thought	explores the issues thoughtfully and in depth	shows some depth and complexity of thought	provides basic analysis, but may treat the topic repetitively.	lacks focus, sometimes fails to communicate ideas, or has a weak analysis	lacks focus and coherence, and often fails to communicate ideas	is unfocused, illogical, or incoherent
Organization, Development, and Support	is coherently organized and developed, with ideas supported by apt reasons and well chosen examples	is well organized and developed, with ideas supported by appropriate reasons and examples	is adequately organized and developed, generally supporting ideas with reasons and examples	is poorly organized and developed, presenting generalizations without adequate and appropriate support or presenting details without generalizations	has very weak organization, development, and support	is disorganized and undeveloped, providing little or no relevant support
Sentence Structure and Command of Language	has an effective, fluent style marked by sentence variety and a clear command of language	displays some syntactic variety and facility in the use of language	demonstrates adequate control of sentence structure and language	demonstrates limited control of sentence structure and language	Demonstrates inadequate control of sentence structure and language	lacks basic control of sentence structure and vocabulary
Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics	is generally free from errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	may have a few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	may have some errors, but generally demonstrates control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	has an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that sometimes interfere with meaning	has numerous errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that frequently interfere with meaning	has serious and persistent errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that severely interfere with meaning

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