

Essay Component of Guardians Scholarship: Scoring Rubric

Score 6

A score 6 paper commands attention because of its insightful development. It presents a cogent response to the prompt, with well-chosen examples and persuasive reasoning. The 6 paper shows that its writer can use words aptly, use sophisticated sentences effectively, and observe the conventions of written English.

Score 5

A 5 paper is clearly competent. It presents a thoughtful response to the prompt, elaborating that response with appropriate examples and sensible reasoning. A 5 paper typically has a less fluent and complex style than a 6, but shows that its writer can usually choose words accurately, vary sentences effectively, and observe the conventions of written English.

Score 4

A 4 paper is merely satisfactory. It presents an adequate response to the prompt, elaborating that response with sufficient examples and acceptable reasoning. Just as these examples and this reasoning will be less developed than those in 5 papers, so will a 4's style be less effective. A 4 paper shows that its writer can usually choose words of sufficient precision, control sentences of reasonable variety, and observe the conventions of written English.

Score 3

A 3 paper is unsatisfactory in one or more of the following ways: it may respond to the prompt illogically; it may lack coherent structure or elaboration with examples; it may reflect an incomplete understanding of the prompt or the topic. Its prose is characterized by at least one of the following: frequently imprecise word choice; little sentence variety; occasional major errors in grammar and usage, or frequent minor errors.

Score 2

A 2 paper shows serious weaknesses, usually of several kinds. It frequently presents a simplistic, inappropriate, or incoherent response to the prompt, one that suggests some significant misunderstanding of the prompt or the topic. Its prose is characterized by at least one of the following: simplistic or inaccurate word choice; monotonous or fragmented sentence structure; many repeated errors in grammar and usage.

Score 1

A 1 paper suggests severe difficulties in reading and writing conventional English. It may disregard the prompt's requests, or it may lack any appropriate pattern of structure or development. It may be inappropriately brief. It often has a pervasive pattern of errors in word choice, sentence structure, grammar, and usage.