

The New SAT Scoring Guide

SCORE OF 6 An essay in this category is <i>outstanding</i> , demonstrating <i>clear and consistent mastery</i> , although it may have a few minor errors. A typical essay	SCORE OF 5 An essay in this category is <i>effective</i> , demonstrating <i>reasonably consistent mastery</i> , although it will have occasional errors or lapses in quality. A typical essay	SCORE OF 4 An essay in this category is <i>competent</i> , demonstrating <i>adequate mastery</i> , although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates strong critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is well organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is well organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is generally organized and focused, demonstrating some coherence and progression of ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exhibits facility in the use of language, using appropriate vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates meaningful variety in sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates variety in sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates some variety in sentence structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is generally free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics
SCORE OF 3 An essay in this category is <i>inadequate</i> , but demonstrates <i>developing mastery</i> , and is marked by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:	SCORE OF 2 An essay in this category is <i>seriously limited</i> , demonstrating <i>little mastery</i> , and is flawed by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:	SCORE OF 1 An essay in this category is <i>fundamentally lacking</i> , demonstrating <i>very little or no mastery</i> , and is severely flawed by ONE OR MORE of the following weaknesses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops a point of view on the issue, demonstrating some critical thinking, but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops a point of view on the issue that is vague or seriously limited, demonstrating weak critical thinking, providing inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops no viable point of view on the issue, or provides little or no evidence to support its position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is limited in its organization or focus, or may demonstrate some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is poorly organized and/or focused, or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is disorganized or unfocused, resulting in a disjointed or incoherent essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> displays developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes uses weak vocabulary or inappropriate word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> displays very little facility in the use of language, using very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> displays fundamental errors in vocabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacks variety or demonstrates problems in sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates frequent problems in sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates severe flaws in sentence structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics so serious that meaning is somewhat obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning

Essays not written on the essay assignment will receive a score of zero.