

Essay — Academic Skills

SCORE RANGE 2–3

- Your essay demonstrated little understanding of the source text. Your essay included only details from the text without reference to the text’s central idea(s) and made little or no use of textual evidence (quotations and/or paraphrases). [Reading]
- Your essay offered an ineffective analysis of the source text by identifying without explanation some aspects of the author’s use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive elements, or your essay was focused largely or exclusively on summarizing the text. [Analysis]
- Your essay demonstrated little or no cohesion, lacking a clear central claim to guide the organization of the essay, a recognizable introduction and conclusion, and a discernible progression of ideas. Your essay also showed weak control of the conventions of standard written English, with numerous errors that undermined the quality of writing. [Writing]

SCORE RANGE 4–5

- Your essay demonstrated some comprehension of the source text by showing an understanding of the text’s central idea(s) but not of important details. Your essay also made limited use of textual evidence (quotations and/or paraphrases) and may have contained errors of fact or interpretation with regard to the text. [Reading]
- Your essay offered a limited analysis of the source text by attempting to identify and describe the author’s use of evidence, reasoning and/or stylistic or persuasive elements, but your essay only asserted the importance of these elements rather than fully explaining them or their use. [Analysis]
- Your essay demonstrated little or no cohesion, lacking a clear central claim that guided the organization of the essay. Your essay had an ineffective introduction and/or conclusion and some progression of ideas within paragraphs but not throughout the response. Sentence structures had little variety. Your essay may have also shown limited control of the conventions of standard written English with errors that detracted from the quality of writing. [Writing]

SCORE RANGE 6–7

- Your essay demonstrated effective comprehension of the source text by showing an understanding of the text’s central idea(s) and important details while remaining free of substantive errors of fact or interpretation with regard to the text. Your essay also made appropriate use of textual evidence (quotations and/or paraphrases). [Reading]
- Your essay offered an effective analysis of the source text by competently evaluating the author’s use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive elements. Your essay contained relevant and sufficient support for claims made and focused primarily on those features of the text that were most relevant to addressing the task. [Analysis]
- Your essay was mostly cohesive. It included a clear central claim and an effective introduction and/or conclusion. Your essay also demonstrated a clear progression of ideas both within paragraphs and throughout the essay. Sentence structures were varied with some precise word choice. Your essay also showed good control of the conventions of standard written English and was free of significant errors that detract from the quality of the writing. [Writing]

SCORE 8

- Your essay demonstrated thorough comprehension of the source text by showing an understanding of the text’s central idea(s), most important details, and how they interrelate. Your essay made skillful use of textual evidence (quotations and/or paraphrases) and was free of errors of fact or interpretation with regard to the text. [Reading]
- Your essay offered an insightful analysis of the source text and a thorough, well-considered evaluation of the author’s use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive elements. Your essay also contained relevant, sufficient, and strategically chosen support for your claim(s) and focused consistently on the features of the text that were most relevant to addressing the task. [Analysis]
- Your essay was cohesive: it included a precise central claim and a skillful introduction and conclusion as well as a deliberate and highly effective progression of ideas throughout the essay. Sentence structures were varied and word choice was consistently precise. Your essay also showed a strong command of the conventions of standard written English and was free or virtually free of errors. [Writing]