

Informative/Argumentative Condensed Writing Scoring Guide

6/5 Highly Proficient	4 Proficient	3 Close to Proficient	2/1 Needs work
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ideas and Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main ideas are clear and focused Details are significant, relevant, and support claims, main ideas When appropriate, resources provide strong, accurate, credible support Thorough, balanced explanation of topic is provided and writing makes connections and shares insights Claims and counter claims are thoroughly developed 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ideas and Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main ideas are clear Supporting details are relevant When appropriate, resources provide accurate support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic is explored with developmental details in balance with the main idea Counter claims are addressed Details are generally relevant and specific, using facts, quotations or other information 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ideas and Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main ideas are unclear, predictable or overly obvious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support is offered, but developmental details are often limited, uneven, somewhat off-topic or too general Details may not be well grounded Resources may not be credible Counterclaims are ignored or misinterpreted The paper may rely on general observations rather than specifics 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ideas and Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas are extremely limited or simply unclear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details are insufficient Development is missing or the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea Irrelevant details may clutter the text Details may be repeated extensively
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sequencing and paragraph breaks are effective, the structure fits the topic and the writing is easy to follow The beginning draws the reader in and the conclusion provides a satisfying sense of resolution or closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitions are smooth and effective and varied Details clarify relationships between claims, counterclaims, information and explanations fit where placed Connections to source materials flow naturally 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sequencing and paragraph breaks are clear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beginning is recognizable, developed and introduces the main ideas and claims or arguments and the conclusion supports the argument, claims, information or explanation and follows a logical progression to wrap up Transitions are used adequately, with some variety The body is easy to follow with details that fit where placed to support claims and/or information Connections to source materials are integrated into the writing 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some sequencing and paragraph breaks are used, but the order or the relationship among the ideas may be unclear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beginning may be underdeveloped or too obvious “My topic is....” The conclusion may be a summary or repetition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The body provides supporting details that may be indirect The organization may lapse in some places Some transitions, but the same few devices may be overused; others may be missing 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph breaks, if used, are unclear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some attempts at sequencing are made, but the order of relationships is unclear The beginning, body, or conclusion may be missing or extremely underdeveloped Supporting details seem to be out of order if present at all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitions are absent or ineffective The lack of organization ultimately obscures or distorts the main idea
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appropriate level of formality is used based on topic and purpose The writing shows a strong sense of audience and desire to communicate the message The writer may show originality, honesty or conviction, appropriate to the topic and purpose 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer seems to be aware of audience but may not consistently maintain an appropriate level of closeness to or distance from the audience The writing may show liveliness, sincerity, or conviction but may be either too casual or personal 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a limited sense of audience; the writer’s awareness of the reader is unclear The voice may shift and become somewhat mechanical The ability to shift to a more objective voice seems limited 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer seems to be minimally engaged with a flat, lifeless, voice The style and tone may be overly informal and personal for the topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no sense of interaction between the writer and the reader The writing does not adhere to norms for style and tone

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<p style="text-align: center;">Word Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate, specific word choices energize the writing Vocabulary is varied, using phrases and jargon that enhance the overall message Carefully selected words, phrases and academic language create cohesion and clarify relationships among information Words evoke clear images and figurative language, when used, is carefully crafted to enhance understanding 	<p style="text-align: center;">Word Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domain-specific vocabulary is used with words that are functional and precise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic language is used accurately to convey information Technical language or jargon, when used, does not overwhelm the message or confuse the reader Clichés are generally avoided and some carefully selected metaphors, similes and analogies may be used 	<p style="text-align: center;">Word Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected words work but rarely capture reader’s interest Words seem too general or too overdone or forced Misused words may occasionally appear Clichés and overused expressions appear frequently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text may be too short to demonstrate variety of word choice 	<p style="text-align: center;">Word Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are general, vague, flat, imprecise Range of words used is limited Some words don’t fit the text
<p style="text-align: center;">Sentence Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A natural, fluent cadence and sound glides easily along from one sentence to the next Sentence variety is strong and sentences vary in structure and length Sentence structure enhances meaning, reinforces relationships among ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue sounds natural 	<p style="text-align: center;">Sentence Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing has a natural sound and the reader can move easily through the piece. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some sentence variety with adequate variation Control of simple sentences is strong, but not over more complex structures. Some lapses in stylistic control may occur Dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part 	<p style="text-align: center;">Sentence Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some passages are fluid; others are not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentence structures show some variety, but may become repetitive Simple sentences work well, but there is little control over more complex sentences Sentences are functional but may lack energy Lapses in stylistic control, dialogue, when used, may be ineffective 	<p style="text-align: center;">Sentence Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of the text is difficult to follow or read aloud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentence patterns lack variety Sentence structure frequently makes meaning unclear May be too short to demonstrate variety and control Sentences are disjointed, confusing or rambling
<p style="text-align: center;">Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation is strong, effective and guides the reader through the text Spelling is consistently correct, even for more difficult words Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to style A wide range of conventions is used 	<p style="text-align: center;">Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-sentence punctuation and internal punctuation is generally correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling of common words is generally correct Capitalization is generally correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage do not distort meaning or confuse the reader 	<p style="text-align: center;">Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-sentence punctuation is usually correct while internal punctuation may contain frequent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling errors, including misspelling of some common words, distract the reader Some capitalization errors may occur Errors in grammar and usage do not completely block meaning but do distract the reader 	<p style="text-align: center;">Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many errors with end-of-sentence and internal punctuation Spelling errors occur frequently distracting the reader Capitalization is often incorrect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors in grammar and usage impede readability and meaning

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<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple authoritative sources are used to investigate and issue, answer a question, or solve a problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowed material is acknowledged by introducing the quotation or paraphrase with the name of the authority and key phrases are directly quoted; paraphrased material is interwoven in the text with little transitional distraction. • Quoted materials are generally punctuated correctly with only minor errors • All sources are clearly identified through in-text documentation • A Works Cited page lists all major sources cited in the paper, omitting insignificant sources that were consulted but not used. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several authoritative sources are used to investigate an issue, or solve a problem; the strengths and limitations of the sources are acknowledged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowed material is acknowledged by introducing the quotation or paraphrase with the name of the authority/source, paraphrased material is rewritten using the writer’s style and language • Quoted materials are generally punctuated correctly so that errors do not impede understanding • Sources are identified with in-text documentation • A works cited page is included listing all cited sources 	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited use of source material; the writing shows an overreliance on a single source or on unreliable sources. • Paraphrased material may not be documented accurately or at all and may be simply a rearrangement of the original sentence pattern • Quoted materials are usually set off with quotation marks or in block style, but punctuation within the quoted material contains errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources are inconsistently identified with in-text documentation • A works cited page is included but may be incorrectly formatted, is missing some sources cited, or cites minor sources consulted but not used 	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little or no evidence of outside sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources may be altered or misrepresented • Specific words or ideas from a source may be included without setting them off with quotation marks • Quoted material may be set off with quotation marks, but other punctuation errors within the quotes frequently occur • The works cited page is incorrectly formatted, omitting some source or there is no works cited page