

Formative Multiple Trait Scoring Guide

This grading scale is an adaptation of the *ESL Composition Profile* in [Jacobs et al. \(1981\)](#).

STUDENT: _____ **DATE:** _____ **TOPIC** _____

SCORE	LEVEL	CRITERIA
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CONTENT

25-22	EXCELLENT TO VERY GOOD: knowledgeable - substantive - thorough development of thesis/genre - relevant to assigned topic
21-18	GOOD TO AVERAGE: some knowledge of subject - adequate range - limited development of thesis/genre - mostly relevant to topic, but lacks detail
17-11	FAIR TO POOR: limited knowledge of subject - little substance - inadequate development of thesis/genre
10-5	VERY POOR: does not show knowledge of subject - non-substantive - not pertinent - OR not enough to evaluate OR no relation to assigned thesis/genre

ORGANIZATION

20-18	EXCELLENT TO VERY GOOD: organization clearly stated and supported - well-organized and very thorough development of introduction, body, and conclusion well-organized and very thorough development of supporting details
17-14	GOOD TO AVERAGE: somewhat choppy - main ideas stand out, but organization unclear limited development of introduction, body, and/or conclusion - and/or limited development of supporting details
13-10	FAIR TO POOR: ideas confused or disconnected - lacks logical sequencing and development of introduction, body, and/or conclusion - inadequate development of supporting details
9-7	VERY POOR: does not communicate - no organization - OR not enough to evaluate

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION

20-18	EXCELLENT TO VERY GOOD: effective use of simple, compound, and complex sentences correctly punctuated - effective use of coordinators, subordinators, and transitions - few errors of S-V agreement, verb tense, number, word order/function, articles, pronouns, prepositions
17-14	GOOD TO AVERAGE: inconsistent control of simple, compound, and/or complex sentences - minor problems in the use of coordinators, subordinators, and transitions several errors of S-V agreement, verb tense, number, word order/function, articles, pronouns prepositions but meaning seldom obscured
13-10	FAIR TO POOR: major problems in simple, compound, and complex sentences - frequent errors of negation, agreement, tense, number, word order/function, articles, pronouns, prepositions and/or fragments, run-ons - comma splices - meaning confused or obscured
9-7	VERY POOR: virtually no mastery of sentence construction rules - dominated by errors - does not communicate - OR not enough to evaluate

VOICE

10-9	EXCELLENT TO VERY GOOD: topic springs to life - author's excitement about topic clearly evident - strong personal appeal to the reader
8-7	GOOD TO AVERAGE: writer is engaged with topic - writer engages the reader
6-5	FAIR TO POOR: limited involvement with the topic - writes to fulfill the assignment - only slightly engaging to the reader
4-3	VERY POOR: no hint of author's involvement with the topic - writer could be anyone - not engaging to the reader

MECHANICS + PROOFREADING = FINISHED FORM

25-22	EXCELLENT TO VERY GOOD: demonstrates mastery of conventions - few errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization - includes clearly defined paragraphs and title page - computerized, double-spaced, appropriately sized margins and type font, paper stapled
21-18	GOOD TO AVERAGE: occasional errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, unclear paragraphing - (no use of spell check or grammar check) - but meaning not obscured
17-11	FAIR TO POOR: frequent errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing - poor handwriting - meaning confused or obscured
10-5	VERY POOR: no mastery of conventions - dominated by errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing - handwriting illegible - OR not enough to evaluate

TOTAL SCORE: _____ **READER COMMENTS:** _____