

TCAP WRITING ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Scores from 6 to 1 reflect the range of excellence in the papers written in response to the assignment. Anchor and sample papers will illustrate both the limits and the diversity within each score level. Since each writing assignment places unique demands on students, readers should score the papers primarily in reference to the standards that emerge from the sample papers. The following broad categories, however, define the score ranges for any writing assignment and for any range of skills among the students responding.

SCORE OF 6

A 6 paper is **OUTSTANDING**. It demonstrates a high degree of proficiency in response to the assignment but may have a few minor errors.

An essay in this category:

- is well organized and coherently developed
- clearly explains or illustrates key ideas
- demonstrates syntactic variety
- clearly displays facility in the use of language
- is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure

SCORE OF 5

A 5 paper is **STRONG**. It demonstrates clear proficiency in response to the assignment and may have minor errors.

An essay in this category:

- is generally well organized and coherently developed
- explains or illustrates key ideas
- demonstrates some syntactic variety
- displays facility in the use of language
- is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure

SCORE OF 4

A 4 paper is **COMPETENT**. It demonstrates proficiency in response to the assignment.

An essay in this category:

- is adequately organized and developed
- explains or illustrates some of the key ideas
- demonstrates adequate facility in the use of language
- may display some errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure

SCORE OF 3

A 3 paper is **LIMITED**. It demonstrates some degree of proficiency in response to the assignment but it is clearly flawed.

An essay in this category reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

- inadequate organization or development
- inadequate explanation or illustration of key ideas
- limited or inappropriate word choice
- a pattern or accumulation of errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure

SCORE OF 2

A 2 paper is **FLAWED**. It demonstrates limited proficiency in response to the assignment.

An essay in this category reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

- weak organization or very little development
- little or no relevant detail
- serious errors in mechanics, usage, sentence structure, or word choice

SCORE OF 1

A 1 paper is **DEFICIENT**. It demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in writing skills.

An essay in this category contains serious and persistent writing errors or is incoherent or is undeveloped.

Score followed by "E" indicates student is excluded from summaries.

"0" is reported accompanied by one of the following codes to indicate a paper could not be scored for one of the following reasons

- A. Blank or Refusal
- B. Insufficient to score or illegible
- C. Off-Topic
- D. Predominantly in Another Language

*Test score nullified due to Report of Irregularity or Absence