

HOLISTIC SCORING GUIDE: TOTAL SCORE

10. (Outstanding) A paper in category 10 completes the task set by the assignment and meets all the evaluation criteria specified. It is virtually free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure. It shows evidence of excellent control of language, and is distinguished by clear and orderly thinking.
9. (Very Good) A paper in category 9 may slight, but not ignore, the primary task of the assignment. It may not be as thoughtful or as carefully reasoned as a 10 paper, but it will not be characterized by mere statement and restatement of generalized ideas. There may be minor weaknesses in paragraphing, but there is evidence of the ability to organize information into coherent units. The paper is largely free from serious error in mechanics usage and sentence structure, and is generally well written.
8. (Satisfactory) Although a paper in category 8 may accomplish the assignment less completely than a 10 or 9 paper does, the paper comes to terms with the basic task of the assignment. The reasoning may be less precise than one would expect to find in a 9 or 10 paper, but it does not contain serious errors in logic. It may insufficiently develop minor points, but it gives evidence of the writer's ability to support key ideas. It is organized and paragraphed well enough to allow the reader to move with relative ease through the discourse, though there may be some disjointedness and lack of focus. The paper may contain errors in mechanics, usage and sentence structure, but not so frequently as to call into question the writer's command of standard English or to consistently distract the reader from the content. The paper shows generally accurate use of language.
7. (Minimally Satisfactory) A paper in category 7 shows serious difficulty managing the task of the assignment and definite weakness in analytical thinking. Key ideas lack adequate support of illustration. Errors in sentence structure, usage and mechanics seriously interfere with readability. There may be distinct weaknesses in paragraphing and organization, but the total effect will not be chaotic. The writer's control of language is uncertain.
6. (Poor) A paper in category 6 fails to come to terms with the assignment. The primary task is ignored, misconstrued, badly mis-handled, or redefined to accommodate what the writer wants to say or is able to say. There may be a combination of the following defects: serious errors in reasoning, little or no development of ideas, and no clear progression from one part of the paper to the next. There are serious and frequent errors in sentence structure, usage and mechanics, showing a lack of control in using standard English.