

Writing Proficiency Exam Rubric California State University, Long Beach

SCORING GUIDE

Papers should be scored for their overall quality;
students should be rewarded for what they do well.

POSSIBLE SCORES (Six-Point Scale)

- 6 SUPERIOR** A perceptive, intelligent, paper, reflecting a sophisticated analytical response to all parts of the writing assignment. Well-written, organized, and detailed. Uses complex and varied sentence structure and effective diction.
- 5 COMPETENT** A thoughtful analytical response to all parts of the writing assignment. Clearly organized and developed. Skillful in sentence construction, variety, and word choice.
- 4 ADEQUATE** An adequate analysis of the writing assignment. Reasonably developed and focused. May have minor weaknesses, but uses appropriate sentence structure and diction.
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- 3 INADEQUATE** An inadequate analysis of the writing assignment. Either fails to develop a focused response or is weak in structure, syntax, or mechanics.
- 2 INCOMPETENT** A minimal analysis of the writing assignment. Lacks focus, direction, coherence, or completion. Often characterized by persistent errors in grammar, sentence structure, spelling, or usage.
- 1 INFERIOR** Shows little understanding of the writing assignment. Provides no analysis or development. Fails to express even the most basic ideas comprehensibly.

Student submissions are score independently by three reviewers. The total score for an acceptable paper must be 11 points or higher (4 + 4 + 3). Reviewer scores cannot vary overall by more than one point.