



# WritePlacer Scoring Rubric

Test takers are asked to provide a writing sample of approximately 300 to 600 words in response to a prompt. This range represents a chance to ensure the essay submitted will be long enough for evaluating the elements of good writing described in this rubric.

The essay is electronically scored, and a holistic score ranging from 1 to 8 is reported along with one of the statements below.

Score	WritePlacer Holistic Score Descriptions
8	The essay demonstrates <i>clear and consistent mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
7	The essay demonstrates <i>consistent mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
6	The essay demonstrates <i>reasonably consistent mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
5	The essay demonstrates <i>adequate mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
4	The essay demonstrates <i>developing mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
3	The essay demonstrates <i>little mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
2	The essay demonstrates <i>very little mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
1	The essay demonstrates <i>no mastery</i> of on-demand essay writing.
0	No holistic score: This essay has not been given a holistic score or the six-dimensional scores because it is either a blank page, incoherent/illegible, insufficient (too short to assess), written in a foreign language, or off topic.

The WritePlacer Holistic Scoring Rubric provides detailed information about each score point:

## WritePlacer Holistic Scoring Rubric

### Score of 8

An essay in this category demonstrates clear and consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing with a few minor errors. A typical essay:

- Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing in the thesis statement
- Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using effective examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- Is well-organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas

- Exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary
- Demonstrates varied and effective sentence structure
- Is free of major errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 7*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***consistent mastery*** of on-demand essay writing although it may have occasional minor errors. A typical essay:

- Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing in the thesis statement
- Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- Is well-organized and focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas
- Exhibits appropriate language, using a varied and accurate vocabulary
- Demonstrates varied sentence structure
- Is practically free of errors in sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 6*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***reasonably consistent mastery*** of on-demand essay writing, although it may have occasional lapses in quality. A typical essay:

- Effectively develops a point of view on the issue
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing
- Demonstrates strong critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- Is well-organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and a logical progression of ideas
- Exhibits consistent control in the use of language
- Demonstrates adequate variety in sentence structure
- Is generally free of errors in sentence structure, grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 5*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***adequate mastery*** of on-demand essay writing although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay:

- Develops a viable point of view on the issue
- May stray from the audience and purpose but is able to refocus
- Demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
- Is generally organized and focused but could lack coherence and logical progression of ideas
- Exhibits adequate but inconsistent control of language

- Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure
- Contains some minor errors in sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 4*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***developing mastery*** of on-demand essay writing. A typical essay:

- Develops a viable point of view on the issue
- May stray from audience and purpose
- Demonstrates some critical thinking but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position
- May lack control of organization or focus, demonstrating some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas
- Contains some errors in sentence structure and use of grammatical conventions such as word choice, usage, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 3*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***little mastery*** of on-demand essay writing. Flawed by ***one or more*** of the following weaknesses, a typical essay:

- Presents a vague or limited point of view on the issue
- Demonstrates little awareness of audience
- Attempts to develop the main idea though that attempt is inadequate
- Demonstrates weak critical thinking with little complexity of thought or with flawed reasoning
- Provides inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position
- Is poorly organized and/or focused or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas
- Displays limited word choice and little sentence variety
- Contains many errors in mechanical conventions of usage, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation

*Score of 2*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***very little mastery*** of on-demand essay writing. Flawed by ***many or most*** of the following weaknesses, a typical essay:

- Presents a vague or limited point of view on the issue
- Demonstrates little awareness of audience
- Presents an unclear main idea
- Demonstrates weak critical thinking with little complexity of thought or with flawed reasoning
- Organizes ideas ineffectively, demonstrating a problematic progression of ideas
- Displays numerous errors in word choice, usage, and sentence structure
- Contains significant spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanical errors

### *Score of 1*

An essay in this category demonstrates ***no mastery*** of on-demand essay writing. Severely flawed by ***many or most*** of the following weaknesses, a typical essay:

- Lacks a viable point of view on the issue
- Demonstrates no awareness of audience
- Fails to present a main idea
- Demonstrates flawed reasoning
- Demonstrates no complexity of thought
- Is disorganized and/or disjointed
- Displays fundamental errors in word choice, usage, and sentence structure
- Contains pervasive spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanical errors

### *Score of 0*

This essay has not been given a holistic score or dimension scores because it is either a blank page, incoherent/illegible, insufficient (too short to assess), written in a foreign language, or off topic.

## WritePlacer Dimension Descriptions

In addition to the holistic score and description, additional feedback in the form of one of six dimensions considered essential in a well-written essay can be reported:

### *Purpose and Focus*

The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue. Specific elements considered include:

- Unity
- Consistency
- Coherence
- Relevance
- Audience

### *Organization and Structure*

The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas. Specific elements considered include:

- Introduction
- Thesis
- Body paragraphs
- Transitions
- Conclusions

### *Development and Support*

The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas. Specific elements considered include:

- Point of view
- Coherent arguments
- Evidence
- Elaboration

#### *Sentence Variety and Style*

The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure. Specific elements considered include:

- Sentence length
- Sentence structure
- Usage
- Tone
- Vocabulary
- Voice

#### *Mechanical Conventions*

The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using Standard English. Specific elements considered include:

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation

#### *Critical Thinking*

The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas. Specific elements considered include:

- Clarity
- Depth
- Precision
- Logic
- Accuracy
- Fairness
- Breadth
- Relevance