

English 1A Mastery Essay Scoring Guide

- 5 A 5 essay demonstrates a high degree of competence in response to the assignment but may have a few minor errors.

An essay in this category

- demonstrates full understanding of the reading passage
- demonstrates mastery of the essay form
- supports a clear thesis with varied and appropriate methods of development
- contains varied sentences

- 4 A 4 essay demonstrates clear competence but may have minor errors.

An essay in this category

- may demonstrate partial understanding of the reading passage
- demonstrates a basic competence with the essay form
- supports a thesis with adequate development
- contains sentences that are generally free of error

- 3 A 3 essay demonstrates marginal competence but may have frequent errors.

An essay in this category

- demonstrates minimal understanding of the reading passage
- demonstrates a partial competence with the essay form
- attempts to support a thesis with thin development
- may contain sentences with syntactic and/or grammatical errors

- 2 A 2 essay demonstrates some degree of competence but remains clearly flawed.

An essay in this category

- demonstrates confusion about the reading passage
- demonstrates weakness in focus, development, and/or coherence of essay form
- contains frequent syntactic and/or grammatical errors

- 1 A 1 essay demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in reading and writing skills.

An essay in this category

- misrepresents the ideas of the reading passage
- has weak organization and very little development
- has serious, frequent, distracting errors in syntax and grammar