

**4-Point
Explanatory
Writing Rubric**

Score	4	3	2	1	NS
Organization/Purpose	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The response is fully sustained, and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlling or main idea of a topic is clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task • consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • effective introduction and conclusion • logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety 	<p>The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected. The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlling or main idea of a topic is clear, and the focus is mostly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task • adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • adequate introduction and conclusion • adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end; adequate connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident. The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlling or main idea of a topic may be somewhat unclear, or the focus may be insufficiently sustained for the purpose, audience, and task • inconsistent use of transitional strategies and/or little variety • introduction or conclusion, if present, may be weak • uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end; and/or formulaic; inconsistent or unclear connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may be related to the topic but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlling or main idea may be confusing or ambiguous; response may be too brief or the focus may drift from the purpose, audience, or task • few or no transitional strategies are evident • introduction and/or conclusion may be missing • frequent extraneous ideas may be evident • ideas may be randomly ordered or have an unclear progression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient (includes copied text) • Explicit refusal • Statement of non-understanding • Predominately in another language

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Evidence/Elaboration	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea and supporting idea(s) that include the effective use of facts and details. The response clearly and effectively elaborates ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensive support is integrated, relevant, and specific effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques* vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose effective, appropriate style enhances content 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the controlling idea and supporting idea(s) that include facts and details. The response adequately elaborates ideas, employing a mix of precise and more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate support is integrated and relevant, yet may be general adequate use of some elaborative techniques* vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose generally appropriate style is evident 	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the controlling idea and supporting idea(s) that include facts and details. The response elaborates ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some support may be weakly integrated, imprecise, repetitive vague, and/or copied weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques* vocabulary use is uneven or somewhat ineffective for the audience and purpose inconsistent or weak attempt to create appropriate style 	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the controlling idea and supporting idea(s) that include facts and details. The response is vague, confusing, or lacks clarity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support is minimal, irrelevant, absent, incorrectly used, or predominantly copied minimal, if any, use of elaborative techniques* vocabulary is limited or ineffective for the audience and purpose little or no evidence of appropriate style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient (includes copied text) Explicit refusal Statement of non-understanding Predominately in another language

*Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the controlling idea.

**2-Point
Explanatory
Writing Rubric**

Score	2	1	0	NS
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient (includes copied text) Explicit refusal Statement of non-understanding Predominately in another language

Holistic Scoring:

- **Variety:** A range of errors includes formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling.
- **Severity:** Basic errors are more heavily weighted than higher-level errors.
- **Density:** The proportion of errors to the amount of writing done well. This includes the ratio of errors to the length of the piece.