

Essay Scoring Guide

Content counts for 70% of an essay's score. Mechanics count for 30%. The following shows the point breakdown of a 100 point essay.

CONTENT (70% = 70 points total)

Your essay will earn points according to which of the following strategies it uses.

thesis

- 25: one clear, narrow thesis
- 5: two or more theses
- 0: no clear thesis

support

- 35: concrete, complete, specific, and interesting throughout
- 30: one small piece of evidence off topic
- 15: one portion of the essay not adequately backed up
(evidence not concrete or specific)
- 10: more than one piece of off-topic evidence
- 5: more than one portion of the essay not adequately backed up
- 0: no evidence presented to back up points

organization

- 10: all information provided in a logical order
- 5: one slip in logical order, or unnecessary repetition of a portion of the paper
- 0: more than one slip in logical order

MECHANICS (30% = 30 points total)

Each error in mechanics triggers a point deduction. When I reach a total of thirty points, I stop counting. Pay attention to the following areas:

- Paragraphs
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Conciseness and variety of sentence structure
- Diction (word choice)

- 1: minor errors (don't interfere with interpretation of the sentence or distract the reader greatly) (ex: missing apostrophe)
- 2: annoying errors (distract the reader) (ex: subject verb disagreement)
- 3: serious errors (obscure the writer's meaning) (ex: unclear pronoun reference)
- 30: any error that leads me to believe the paper was not proofread or spell checked

<p>Remember to use the Paramedic Method.</p>
