

OSTP Grade 5 Holistic Writing Rubric



Score	Description
4	- Content is well-suited for the audience and task/purpose and the writing maintains a clear focus; ideas are fully developed. - Organization is strong, creating unity and coherence; contains an engaging introduction, effective conclusion and logical sequencing with smooth, effective transitions. - Word choice is varied and conveys meaning; language is effective and connects to the audience. - Sentence structure is clear and correct, and the writing demonstrates a rich variety of structures, types, and lengths; any errors are minor. - The writing demonstrates appropriate control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are minor and do not affect readability.
3	- Content is adequate for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has an evident focus; ideas are somewhat developed. - Organization is adequate, creating some unity and coherence; introduction and conclusion are appropriate, and sequencing is logical with limited transitions. - Word choice is general and includes some variety; language is adequate and attempts to connect to the audience. - Sentence structure is correct and the writing demonstrates an adequate variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors may be present but do not interfere with fluency. - The writing demonstrates adequate control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are noticeable but do not significantly affect readability.
2	- Content is inconsistent for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has an unclear focus; ideas are minimally developed and may be listed. - Organization lacks clarity, demonstrating weak unity and coherence; introduction and conclusion are ineffective, there is little or random sequencing, and transitions are limited. - Word choice lacks precision and variety; language may be inappropriate, ineffective, simplistic, or vague. - Sentence structure lacks control and the writing demonstrates limited variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors interfere with fluency. - The writing demonstrates limited control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are distracting and may interfere with readability.
1	- Content is irrelevant for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has a confusing focus; ideas are repetitive or lack development. - Organization lacks logical direction; there is no evidence of unity or coherence. - Word choice is extremely limited or inaccurate; language fails to communicate meaning. The writing may be too short to demonstrate variety. - Sentence structure is inappropriate and the writing demonstrates no variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors interfere with fluency. The writing may be too short to demonstrate control of sentence structures. - The writing demonstrates minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are numerous and impede readability.

Responses receive a score designation of “unscorable” and a performance level of "Below Standard" if they meet any of the following conditions:

- restatement of the task (prompt) or a refusal
- in a language other than English
- illegible, incomprehensible, or otherwise indecipherable
- about a topic different from the assigned task