Score of 6  The 6 paper presents or implies a thesis that is developed with noticeable coherence. The writer's ideas are usually substantive, sophisticated, and carefully elaborated. The writer's choice of language and structure is precise and purposeful, often to the point of being polished. Control of sentence structure, usage, and mechanics, despite an occasional flaw, contributes to the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.

Score of 5  The 5 paper presents or implies a thesis and provides convincing, specific support. The writer's ideas are usually fresh, mature, and extensively developed. The writer demonstrates a command of language and uses a variety of structures. Control of sentence structure, usage, and mechanics, despite an occasional flaw, contributes to the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.

Score of 4  The 4 paper presents a thesis and often suggests a plan of development, which is usually carried out. The writer provides enough supporting detail to accomplish the purpose of the paper. The writer makes competent use of language and sometimes varies the sentence structure. Occasional errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics do not interfere with the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.

Score of 3  The 3 paper presents a thesis and often suggests a plan of development, which is usually carried out. The writer provides support that tends towards generalized statements or a listing. In general, the support in a 3 paper is neither sufficient nor clear enough to be convincing. Sentence structure tends to be pedestrian and often repetitious. Errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics sometimes interfere with the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.

Score of 2  The 2 paper usually presents a thesis. The writer provides support that tends to be sketchy and/or illogical. Sentence structure may be simplistic and disjointed. Errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics frequently interfere with the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.

Score of 1  The 1 paper generally presents a thesis that is vaguely worded or weakly asserted. Support, if any, tends to be rambling and/or superficial. The writer uses language that often becomes tangled, incoherent, and thus confusing. Pervasive errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics frequently occur.