

Scoring rubric: The Mellon Project Assessment of Student Writing

Below are eight statements that describe characteristics of effective writing.

A score of 1 indicates that a paper *completely fails* to meet the criterion.

A score of 7 indicates that a paper *completely meets* the criterion of evaluation.

Please evaluate the paper according to these criteria.

1. Author edited to correct misspellings and other obvious mechanical errors.

(spelling, capitals, apostrophes, mechanics of documentation, punctuation of quotations, ...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. Author followed standard conventions of grammar and usage.

(grammatical rules, general punctuation, possessives, tense, dangling modifiers, correct word choice, e.g., affect/effect, ...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. Author omitted needless words and chose words wisely.

(concise expression, correct use of idioms, effective diction, appropriately constructed sentences, including appropriate integration of quotations,...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. Author developed unified and coherent paragraphs.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. Author used evidence effectively.

(appropriate evidence, sufficient evidence, clear identification of sources, responsible attribution of sources, evidence analyzed, evidence and claims logically related, sound logic, multiple points of view considered if appropriate, ...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. Author clearly communicated the purpose, design, and major points of the paper.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7. Author developed an interesting theme or argument.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8. Author demonstrated complexity of intellectual reach.

(critical thinking, insight, originality, ambitiousness, ...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7