

OSTP Grade 8 Holistic Writing Rubric



Score	Description
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is well-suited for the audience and task/purpose and the writing maintains a clear focus; ideas are fully developed. For an argumentative response, at least one counterclaim is present. • Organization is strong and sustained, creating unity and coherence; contains an engaging introduction, an effective conclusion that follows logically, and smooth, effective transitions that contribute to logical sequencing. • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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