

**ESSAY SCORING GUIDE - ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH  
EXAMPLE TEACHER'S RUBRIC**

Grading Scale	Holistic Number Explanation	Profile of Holistic Areas
<b>7-9</b> <b>(90-100)</b>	<b>8-9</b> Brilliant/exceptional	<p align="center"><b>7-9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough development of ideas with noteworthy insight</li> <li>• Have at least two major points in the body</li> <li>• Clear and logical organization</li> <li>• Powerful vocabulary</li> <li>• Mature and varied sentence structure</li> <li>• Relevant and powerful supporting detail</li> <li>• Few significant mechanical errors</li> </ul>
	<b>7</b> Excellent (a wonderful essay)	
<b>6 (80-89)</b>	<b>6</b> Commendable (a strong paper)	<p align="center"><b>6-7, 5-6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas are developed but not as well as the 7-9's</li> <li>• Above average sentence variety</li> <li>• Good commentary and supporting detail</li> <li>• Clear and logical organization</li> <li>• Some mechanical errors but they do not impair meaning</li> <li>• Strong vocabulary</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <b>(70-79)</b>	<b>5</b> Adequate (shows promise)	
<b>4</b> <b>(60-69)</b>	<b>4</b> Limited achievement (thin, not enough length)	<p align="center"><b>4-5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have development, but feel thin</li> <li>• Supporting detail is weak</li> <li>• Commentary less insightful (too much plot summary)</li> <li>• Limited sentence variety</li> <li>• Average to simple vocabulary</li> <li>• Repetition is a problem</li> <li>• Organization is less controlled</li> <li>• Mechanical errors may be a problem</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> <b>(40-59)</b>	<b>3</b> Inadequate/severely limited	
<b>2</b> <b>(30-39)</b>	<b>2</b> Unacceptable	<p align="center"><b>3, 3-4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severely limited development</li> <li>• Weak organization</li> <li>• Weak commentary (mostly plot summary)</li> <li>• Little or no supporting detail</li> <li>• Inadequate sentence structure and/or vocabulary</li> <li>• Mechanical errors are often a problem</li> <li>• Fail to address the prompt adequately</li> </ul>
<b>1</b> <b>(10-29)</b>	<b>1</b> Off prompt/no logical response (name on paper and 1 or 2 sentences)	
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b> CB gives this for totally off prompt	<p align="center"><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length is inadequate</li> <li>• Little or no commentary</li> <li>• Repetition of unimportant details</li> <li>• Little or no control over elements of composition</li> <li>• Fails to address the prompt</li> </ul>
<p>In-class timed essays are graded on a holistic scale of 1-9, which is used by the College Board. Timed writings will be given one of these numbers (or a combination of two) which correlates to the percentage scale above. The grading scale reflects an assessment of the paper according to AP standards. Generally speaking, three 6's and a score of 50% on the objective section will earn a "3" on the AP exam. If your essays are 5's, you will need to score in the 60% range on the objective section of the AP test in order to pass with a "3."</p>		

