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| Holistic Scoring Chart – by Craig Hadden | | | | |
|  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Substance** | Clear and sustained purpose  Strong sense of audience  Consistent point of view  Relevance to the question  Relatively high sophistication  of thought | Some awareness of purpose  & the ability to sustain it  Some sense of audience  Fairly consistent point of view  General relevance to the  question  Some sophistication of thought  but average on the whole | Question addressed but with a  tendency to replace original  thought with platitudes  Drifts into personal reverie  Little audience awareness  Vague sense of point of view  Introduction of irrelevancies  Little sophistication of thought | No evidence of being able to move  between generalizations & concrete  statements  Failure to address or clear  misunderstanding of question  No thesis or wanders from thesis,  making the discussion pointless  No audience awareness  Each sentence presents a new idea |
| **Specificity**  **(Paragraph Development)** | Several specific examples and/or  details to support the general ideas | Use of some specific examples and  or details, but not as many (3 or  fewer) or as detailed as a 4 | Details tend to be general and  writer gives only two unelaborated  ideas | Almost no use of details or  modification which would  elaborate on the topic and giving  only one unelaborated idea  Ideas remain general |
| **Organization** | Clear central idea (thesis)  Strong sense of unity  Clear sense of an introduction,  body and conclusion  Good use of transitions  Clear, identifiable pattern of  organization  Overall sense of wholeness | Clear but blunt thesis  Sense of unity, order, and  transition, but not as polished as a 4  Sense of an introduction, body, and  conclusion but may be in a formula  5-paragraph pattern  Overall sense of wholeness but  stiff | Thesis present but blunt or vague  and may not be sustained by the  discussion  Details gathered but not ordered in  a meaningful way  Transition words rarely used  Mixture of organization forms  One- or two-paragraph answer | No clear thesis statement; just  begins answering the question  Clauses and sentence unconnected  beyond one or two sentences  Lack of transitions  Unclear organization  One paragraph, somewhat short  response |
| **Expression**  **(Sentence Structure)**  **(Vocabulary)** | Good variety of sentence types,  beginnings, and length  Concise  Accurate and precise word choice  Could demonstrate effective use of  parallelism, sensual words, and  active verbs | Uses some complex structures but  tends to use more simple  Less variety in sentence beginnings  and sentences mostly 15-18 words  Tends to be wordy  Good vocabulary but less variety  Heavy-handed figurative language,  if any | Predominant use of simple and  compound structures  Little variety in sentence  beginnings and sentences mostly  between 13-15 words long  Misuses some words and/or uses  vague or inappropriate words  No use of figurative language  Mixture of formal language &  slang | Use of simple and compound  structures almost exclusively  No sentence variety and tendency  to write short, choppy sentences  Depends on vague, general  vocabulary (e.g. “thing,” “get,”  “go,” “make,” “do,” “it,” etc.)  Absence of elaborate modification  Uses many colloquial/slang words |
| **Correctness**  **(Grammar)**  **(Mechanics)**  **(Spelling)** | Virtually no serious grammatical  errors  Few mechanical errors and most (if  not all) will be comma errors  No misspellings of common words | If errors occur, they will generally  be dangling or misplaced  modifiers, mood errors, or  who/whom errors  More mechanical errors than 4 but  mostly comma errors  Possibly more misspellings but not  common words | Errors with pronouns; adverbs &  adjectives; fragments, comma  splices, run-ons; and shifts in  person and/or number  More mechanical errors and with  more than commas  Misspellings of both common and  uncommon words | Errors with verb inflection, tense  and auxiliary verbs; noun  inflections; pronoun reference and  case; and agreement  Mechanical errors with  capitalization, end punctuation, and  commas  Many misspellings of all words |