

## Section II Writing Simulations Scoring Guide

### **0 Off-topic, illegible, plagiarized, or no response at all**

### **1-2 Weak      An essay in this range exemplifies all or most of the following:**

- Lacks a controlling purpose (thesis statement is insufficient or does not appear clearly)
- Unacceptably brief or sometimes wanders from topic
- Many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics; demonstrates little control over spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation
- Views presented typically lack clarity or coherence
- Does not fit the audience
- Seriously lacks supporting detail
- Lacks appropriate vocabulary or contains non-standard English

### **3-4 Lacking      An essay in this range exemplifies all or most of the following:**

- Thesis statement is not well-defined or is ill-chosen
- Unacceptably brief
- Errors in grammar and mechanics; demonstrates some control over spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation
- Views presented typically lack clarity or coherence
- Inconsistently addresses the audience
- Lacks enough supporting detail
- Includes some inappropriate vocabulary or contains non-standard English

### **5 Sufficient      An essay in this range exemplifies all or most of the following:**

- Adequate thesis statement, yet could be more precise (may mislead the reader)
- Length of essay satisfies requirements
- Minor errors in grammar and mechanics; demonstrates sufficient control over spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation
- Views presented show some clarity or coherence, but lapses do exist
- Fits the audience
- Includes some supporting detail
- Contains appropriate vocabulary, yet contains non-standard English

### **6-7 Strong      An essay in this range exemplifies all or most of the following:**

- Strong thesis statement
- Length of essay allows for development of ideas
- Few distracting errors in grammar and mechanics; demonstrates control over spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation
- Views presented are clear and coherent
- Fits the audience
- Offers supporting detail, but could use more examples to bolster thesis
- Contains appropriate vocabulary and/or few examples of non-standard English

### **8-9 Excellent      An essay in this range exemplifies all or most of the following:**

- Thesis statement excellently serves the paper and readies the reader
- Length of essay allows for development of ideas
- No distracting errors in grammar and mechanics; demonstrates complete control over spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation
- Views presented achieve clarity and coherence
- Fits the audience
- Contains appropriate vocabulary and does not contain non-standard English
- Supporting detail makes the essay whole
- Demonstrates a mature voice