

# WRITING SCORING GUIDE

## COMPARISON EXPOSITORY ESSAY

5 = Accomplished 100%	4 = Maturing 85%	3 = Developing 70%	2 = Emerging 55%	1 = Attempted 40%
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### Ideas & Content (Development)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 6 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Clear, focused thesis
- ⇒ Maintains consistent focus on the topic
- ⇒ Concrete details are relevant, accurate, and support the topic sentence
- ⇒ Commentary insightfully explains concrete details' relevance to the thesis
- ⇒ Comparison is well-developed via a proper balance of commentary and concrete detail
- ⇒ Includes quotes and parenthetical citations from text to support comparison
- ⇒ Fresh and original

### Organization (Internal Structure)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 4 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Entire piece has a strong sense of direction and balance
- ⇒ Inviting introduction draws reader in
- ⇒ Satisfying conclusion leaves reader with sense of closure
- ⇒ Evidence and Ideas move logically from one to the next
- ⇒ Transitions are strong but natural

### Voice (Person Behind the Words)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 3 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Tone and flavor fit the topic, purpose, and audience well
- ⇒ Uses third person point of view exclusively, but does not sound dry/monotone.
- ⇒ Shows why readers need to know this and why they should care

### Word Choice (Language That Brings it to Life)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 2 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Avoids words which are empty (be verbs and dead words)
- ⇒ Lively verbs energize the writing
- ⇒ Shows vs. tells – paints a strong, clear, complete picture in the reader's mind
- ⇒ Variety of interesting words
- ⇒ Minimal slang, jargon, clichés
- ⇒ Specific nouns and colorful adjectives

### Sentence Fluency (Rhythm & Flow)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 3 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Each sentence can stand alone as a clear unit of communication  
(Fragments are rarely used, then only to add style.)
- ⇒ Purposeful sentence beginnings show how each sentence relates to and builds on one before
- ⇒ Easy to read aloud
- ⇒ Strong, varied structure invites expressive oral reading

### Format

**5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = \_\_\_\_**

- ⇒ Works Cited/Consulted, Margins, Font, Spacing, Text Notes are perfectly in MLA format (if applicable)

### Conventions (Mechanical Correctness)

**5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = \_\_\_\_**

*Scoring specifics: 5 = 0-2 errors, 4 = 3-4 errors, 3 = 5-6 errors, 2 = 7-8 errors, 1 = 9+ errors*

- ⇒ Grammar/usage is correct and contributes to clarity and style
- ⇒ Spelling is generally correct-even on more difficult words
- ⇒ Capitalization is correct and applied consistently
- ⇒ Punctuation is accurate-smoothly guides reader through text
- ⇒ Editing and proofreading is evident-close to being ready to publish
- ⇒ Paragraphing reinforces the organizational structure
- ⇒ Writing has sufficient length and complexity to allow the writer to show skill in using a wide variety of conventions.

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 100**

Caveat: No essay with overly distracting conventions can get higher than a D.