

# Scoring Scale for Writing

## Rating of “4”      **Accomplished**

These papers **come alive, stand out, sparkle!** They demonstrate strength in virtually all the rating criteria. Although not flawless papers, they are substantial in content and original or creative in expression. Papers usually “show” much more than “tell.” They offer rich details and have a strong voice. Accomplished papers demonstrate a strong command of language and of writing conventions.

## Rating of “3”      **Proficient**

These papers demonstrate competence in most of the rating criteria. They show **solid writing ability**. They have **more strengths than weaknesses** and are more specific than general. These writings include details and examples. Proficient papers have voice, fluency, and a generally good command of language, including conventions.

## Rating of “2”      **Basic/Minimal**

Basic papers demonstrate some competence in most of the rating criteria, but have **more weaknesses than strengths**. The reader can follow the thought, but it may take re-reading. These papers generally lack details or examples, have little voice, and/or are less proficient in vocabulary and expression. These papers may also have problems with writing conventions.

## Rating of “1”      **Limited**

These papers fail to demonstrate competence in most of the rating criteria. Vocabulary is limited, dull, repetitive. Typically, these papers are under-developed, hard to follow, vague, superficial, or seriously weakened by errors in writing conventions.

## Rating of “X”      **Unscorable**

These papers cannot be scored because they are illegible or do not deal with the topic.