

How is Style Scored?

One definition of “style” is “presentation.” Football players often demonstrate their distinctive style in the end zone after making a touchdown. Fashionistas display their style with not only what clothing they wear but also how they wear it. Thousands of musicians have sung “The Star-Spangled Banner,” but the styles of their singing can vary greatly.

Just as organization is influenced by the development of ideas, skill level in the other five traits of writing heavily influences style. For example, how a writer organizes the essay, or the specific words used in the essay, help to create the essay’s style.

To obtain a score for style, as when scoring for all other traits, PEG compares the essay to the hundreds of essays of the same grade band and genre stored in its “bank.” Measurement Incorporated’s highly trained human scorers evaluated these essays based on the characteristics of style described in the rubric.

Style scoring requires answers to questions such as:

- Is the writing appropriate for the task (writing a letter vs. a magazine article), the purpose (to inform vs. to entertain) and the audience (peers vs. parents)?
- In what style is the language of the essay? Is it also appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience?
- Does the writer maintain the appropriateness of these elements throughout the essay?
- Is there a consistency in the way words are used and sentences are constructed?
- Is there a variety of strong and precise vocabulary?
- Does the writer use literary techniques and devices?

For more information about how PEG scores essays, see [White Paper: PEG Changes](#).