



LIGHTING THE PATHWAYS
TO LEARNING

Constructed Response

Constructed Response essays are generally no more than 250 words. They may be in response to specific questions or may be brief essays on a specific topic. Constructed responses are scored holistically for focus, development of ideas, and organization.

Focus refers to the concentration on a single overall purpose for the response. Development centers on the presentation of additional supportive details and information pertinent to the topic. Organization is characterized by an overall plan (coherence) and internal weaving together of ideas (cohesion). Focus without adequate development and organization is not sufficient for higher score points. A lack of focus, however, can detract from the overall score.

- 3 The response is purposeful and includes specific information. It is organized and well-structured. Support for ideas is sufficient for the task. There are few, if any, errors in usage and mechanics.
- 2 The response is purposeful and includes some specific information. Organization and structure may be weak. Support for ideas may be somewhat lacking. Errors in usage and mechanics do not interfere with communication.
- 1 The response lacks focus, purpose, and/or specific information. It may lack organization and/or a recognizable structure. There is little or no support for ideas. Errors in usage and mechanics make it difficult to understand the response.