English I — Writing

Literary Writing Rubric
Score Point 1

The story represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- The form or structure of the story is inappropriate. It reflects the writer’s confusion or illogical thinking about the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The narrative strategies or literary devices the writer uses are inappropriate or not evident at all. In either case, the writer presents the story in a random or illogical way, causing it to lack clarity and direction.

- Many of the details do not contribute to the story. The writer’s lack of focus on character, event, or idea weakens the unity and coherence of the story.

- The writer’s progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes disruptions in the story line. At other times the lack of meaningful transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections makes one or more parts of the story unclear or illogical.

Development of Ideas

- The development of the story is weak because the details are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient. For this reason they do not contribute to key literary elements such as character development, conflict, and/or point of view.

- The story is thin and insubstantial. The writer’s approach to the prompt may be vague or confused, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the literary writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- The writer’s word choice may be inappropriate to the form, purpose, and tone of the story because vocabulary is general or imprecise. Diction may obscure the impact or meaning of the piece.

- Sentences may be simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, weakening the effectiveness of the story.

- The writer has little or no command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.
Score Point 2

The story represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- The form or structure of the story is evident but may not always be appropriate to the stated purpose or responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The narrative strategies or literary devices the writer uses contribute only marginally to the effectiveness of the story.

- Some of the details do not contribute to the story. The writer may establish but not sustain focus on character, event, or idea, limiting the unity and coherence of the story.

- The writer’s progression of ideas is inconsistent. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the story line. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to clearly show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- The development of the story is minimal and remains at a surface level because the details are somewhat inappropriate or are too briefly or generally presented to add substance to the story. The details only marginally contribute to key literary elements such as character development, conflict, and/or point of view.

- The story reflects little or no depth of thought. The writer’s approach to the prompt is sometimes formulaic and demonstrates only a limited understanding of the literary writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- The writer’s word choice may be only somewhat appropriate to the form, purpose, and tone of the story because the writer may rely on basic or simplistic vocabulary. Diction sometimes detracts from the impact or meaning of the piece.

- Sentences may be awkward or somewhat uncontrolled, limiting the effectiveness of the story.

- The writer demonstrates a partial command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.
Score Point 3

The story represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- The form or structure of the story is, for the most part, appropriate to the stated purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The narrative strategies or literary devices the writer uses contribute generally to the effectiveness of the story.

- Most details contribute to the effectiveness of the story. The writer establishes and generally sustains focus on character, event, or idea. The story is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.

- The writer’s progression of ideas is coherent and generally controlled. Overall, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to show the relationships among ideas through most parts of the story.

Development of Ideas

- Specific details add some substance to the story. For the most part these details contribute to key literary elements such as character development, conflict, and/or point of view.

- The story reflects some depth of thought. The writer's approach to the prompt is original rather than formulaic and demonstrates a good understanding of the literary writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- The writer’s word choice is, for the most part, appropriate to the form, purpose, and tone of the story. Diction is generally effective in communicating the impact or meaning of the piece.

- Sentences are varied and generally controlled, contributing for the most part to the effectiveness of the story.

- The writer demonstrates a general command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the story.
Score Point 4

The story represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- The form or structure of the story is appropriate to the stated purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The narrative strategies or literary devices the writer uses enhance the effectiveness of the story.

- All details contribute to the effectiveness of the story. The writer establishes and sustains focus on character, event, or idea, strengthening the unity and coherence of the story.

- The writer’s progression of ideas is coherent and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections clearly show the relationships among ideas throughout the story.

Development of Ideas

- Specific, well-chosen details add substance to the story. These details contribute significantly to key literary elements such as character development, conflict, and/or point of view.

- The story is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may approach the topic from an unusual perspective, may use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing, or may connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer demonstrates a deep understanding of the literary writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- The writer’s word choice is thoughtful and appropriate to the form, purpose, and tone of the story. Diction contributes to clarity and is highly effective in communicating the impact or meaning of the piece.

- Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the story.

- The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the story. The writer demonstrates a consistent command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the story.