



ETS® Proficiency Profile **Essay Scoring Guide**

The automated scoring of the ETS® Proficiency Profile essays is based on essay scores produced by human raters scoring sample essays according to the 0–6 criteria listed below:

Score	Descriptors
6	<p>A typical essay in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• presents a thoughtful and well-developed position on the issue• explores the complexities of the issue• develops the position with apt reasons and/or well-chosen examples• is well focused and well organized• uses effective vocabulary and sentence variety• demonstrates strong control of grammar, mechanics and sentence structure
5	<p>A typical essay in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• presents a clear and developed position on the issue• demonstrates some understanding of the complexities of the issue• develops ideas with appropriate reasons and examples• is focused and well organized, connecting ideas appropriately• expresses ideas clearly, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety• demonstrates control of grammar, mechanics and sentence structure
4	<p>A typical essay in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• presents a reasonably clear position on the issue• develops ideas with reasons and examples• is adequately focused and organized• expresses ideas with reasonable clarity• generally demonstrates control of grammar, mechanics or sentence structure, but may have some errors
3	<p>A typical essay in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is vague or limited in presenting a position on the issue• makes poorly supported generalizations and/or fails to provide sufficient reasons and examples to support its position• is poorly focused and/or organized, lacking connections between ideas• has problems in the use of vocabulary and sentence variety that interfere with clarity• contains errors in grammar, usage or sentence structure that can interfere with meaning



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2	<p>A typical essay in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is unclear in presenting a position on the issue• is disorganized and undeveloped• relies on unsupported generalizations• provides few, if any, relevant reasons or examples• has serious problems with vocabulary and/or sentence structure• contains frequent errors in grammar, mechanics and sentence structure that interfere with meaning
1	<p>A typical essay in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides little or no evidence of the ability to understand the issue or present a position on the issue• provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response to the issue• has persistent problems with vocabulary and/or sentence structure• contains pervasive errors in grammar, mechanics and sentence structure that result in incoherence
0	<p>A typical essay in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is off topic (i.e., provides no evidence of an attempt to address the assigned topic)• is in a foreign language• merely copies the topic• consists of only keystroke characters• is illegible or nonverbal

NS – The essay response is blank.