SCORING GUIDE for Writing Placement

6 Outstanding
A **6** paper skillfully argues a clear and specific position, provides relevant and detailed support that is well-organized, and demonstrates excellent control of the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **all** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents a compelling, focused, specific, debatable, and consistent claim;
b. Provides ample, concrete, and persuasive support (including but not limited to reasons, examples, quotations, or data) for every debatable assertion by synthesizing information and arguments from reliable sources, summarizing them fairly, and analyzing them critically;
c. Demonstrates superior reading comprehension;
d. Displays clear and consistent overall organization that integrates all ideas; connects ideas with highly effective transitions;
e. Shows outstanding control of language, including effective and appropriate word choice and sentence variety;
f. Demonstrates superior facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics) but may have infrequent minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.

5 Strong
A **5** paper competently argues a clear or specific position, provides relevant support that is organized, and demonstrates very good control of the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **all** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents an interesting, focused, specific, debatable, and consistent claim;
b. Provides concrete and persuasive support for every debatable assertion by using reliable source(s), summarizing them fairly, but not always analyzing them critically;
c. Demonstrates solid reading comprehension;
d. Displays clear and consistent overall organization that integrates most ideas; connects ideas with effective transitions;
e. Shows strong control of language, including mostly effective and appropriate word choice and sentence variety;
f. Demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics) but may have minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.

4 Adequate
A **4** paper adequately argues a position, provides support that is reasonably organized, and demonstrates good control of the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **all** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents a claim that raises some debate, but lacks some focus, specificity, or consistency;
b. Provides support and persuasive reasoning for most debatable assertions by using source(s), some of which may be unreliable or used uncritically;
c. Demonstrates acceptable reading comprehension, but may contain a few minor misreadings;
d. Displays overall organization, but some ideas may be illogical or unrelated; connects ideas with adequate transitions;
e. Shows adequate control of language, including appropriate word choice and sentence variety;
f. Demonstrates competence with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics) but may have some errors that do not interfere with meaning.

3 Limited
A typical **3** paper presents a weak position, provides uneven support that is somewhat disorganized, or demonstrates uneven control of the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **at least one** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents a claim that is vague, inconsistent, or barely debatable;
b. Provides some support or reasoning, or relies predominantly on sweeping generalizations, narration, description, or summary;
c. Demonstrates marginal reading comprehension and may contain multiple misreadings;
d. Displays uneven or ineffective overall organization; connects only some ideas with transitions;
e. Shows problems in word choice and sentence structure that sometimes interfere with readers' comprehension of meaning; sentences may be inadequately varied;
f. Demonstrates limited facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics), and may have occasional major or frequent minor errors that might interfere with readers' comprehension of meaning.

2 Significantly Limited
A typical **2** paper presents an unfocused position, provides very little support, is poorly organized, or demonstrates weak control of the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **at least one** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents a claim that is unclear, inconsistent, or not debatable;
b. Provides little support or reasoning, or relies solely on sweeping generalizations, narration, description, or summary;
c. Demonstrates little reading comprehension, and contains significant misreadings;
d. Displays inconsistent overall organization; connects few ideas with transitions;
e. Shows problems in word choice and sentence structure that frequently interfere with readers' comprehension of meaning; sentences are inadequately varied in structure;
f. Demonstrates significantly limited facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics), and contains combination of errors that frequently interfere with readers' comprehension of meaning.

1 Developing
A typical **1** paper presents a problematic position, provides no support, or demonstrates little control over the elements of writing. A paper in this category exhibits **at least one** of the following characteristics:
a. Presents no easily recognizable claim;
b. Provides no easily recognizable support or reasoning;
c. Demonstrates no reading comprehension;
d. Has no easily recognizable overall organization; has no connections between ideas;
e. Shows difficulty with word choice and sentence structure that obscure meaning; uses language and style that are inappropriate for the audience, purpose, or occasion; sentences show little or no variety in structure;
f. Demonstrates developing facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, usage, and mechanics), and contains few sentences free of errors that consistently interfere with readers' comprehension of meaning.