Holistic Writing Rubric for the Short Constructed Response Task

This rubric is used to score students' responses to a writing prompt that requires a single paragraph. Each paragraph receives a single score of 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 points.

Score Point 4

The response is clear, focused, and developed for the purpose specified in the prompt. Relevant details and/or anecdotes and word choice support and enrich the central idea, topic, or story line. Any errors in language usage, spelling, and mechanics, if present, do not impede meaning.

Content and Organization	Style and Fluency
- Supporting details are relevant and provide important information about the topic. - The writing has balance; the main idea stands out from the details. - The writer seems in control and develops the topic in a logical, organized way. - The writing connects ideas to the specified purpose.	- The writer selects words that are accurate, specific, and appropriate for the specified purpose. - The writer may experiment with words and/or use figurative language and/or imagery. - The writer uses a variety of sentence structures. - The writing is readable, neat, and nearly error-free.

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Score Point 3

The response is clear and focused. Ideas are related to the purpose specified in the prompt but may be sketchy or overly general. Relevant details and/or anecdotes and word choice support the topic, theme, or story line but may be limited. Any errors in language usage, spelling, and mechanics, if present, do not impede meaning. One or more of the following problems may be present.

Content and Organization	Style and Fluency
- The writer has defined but not thoroughly developed the topic, idea, or story line. - Some supporting details are relevant but limited, or overly general, or less important. - The writer makes general observations without using specific details or does not delineate the main idea from the details. - The writer attempts to develop the topic in an organized way, but may falter in either logic or organization. - The writer connects ideas with the specified topic implicitly rather than explicitly.	- The writer mostly selects words that are accurate, specific, and appropriate for the purpose of the writing. - The writer uses age-appropriate words that are accurate but may lack precision. - The writer uses simple but accurate sentence structures. - The writing is mostly readable and neat. - Errors in language usage, spelling, and mechanics do not impede communication.

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Score Point 2

The response does not maintain focus or organization throughout. Ideas are minimally related to the purpose specified in the prompt; the reader must make inferences based on sketchy details and inaccurate or nonspecific word choice. There may be some serious errors in language usage, spelling, or mechanics. One or more of the following problems is present.

Content and Organization	Style and Fluency
• The writer has defined but not thoroughly developed the topic, idea, or story line; response may be unclear or sketchy or may read like a collection of thoughts from which no central idea emerges. • Supporting details are minimal or irrelevant or no distinction is made between main ideas and details. • The writer does not develop the topic in an organized way; response may be a list rather than a developed paragraph. • Ideas are not connected to the specified purpose.	• The writer sometimes selects words that are not accurate, specific, or appropriate for the purpose of the writing. • Writing may be choppy or repetitive. • Portions of the writing are unreadable or messy; errors may impede communication in some portions of the response.

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Score Point 1

The response tends to be unfocused and disorganized; there may be severe problems with fluency and/or consistency. Ideas may not be related to the purpose specified in the prompt. Details and/or anecdotes may be irrelevant or too insufficient for the reader to construct meaning. Word choices may not support the topic, theme, or story line or may be repetitive or inaccurate. Errors in language usage, spelling, or mechanics may be severe. One or more of the following problems is present.

Content and Organization	Style and Fluency
- The writer has not defined the topic, idea, or story line. - Supporting details are absent. - Organization is not evident; may be a brief list. - Ideas are fragmented and unconnected with the specified purpose.	- Much of the writing is unreadable or messy. - Word choice is inaccurate or there are many repetitions. - Vocabulary is age-inappropriate. - The writer uses simple, repetitive sentence structures or many sentence fragments. - Errors severely impede communication.

Score Point 0

The response is off-topic or unreadable.