

Scoring Rubric for Rhetorical Analysis Questions in AP Language and Composition English III

- 9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet all the criteria of 8 papers and in addition are especially thorough in their analysis or demonstrate a particularly impressive control of style.
 - 8 Essays earning a score of 8 effectively assess the purpose of the author and the effective use of rhetorical tools to accomplish that purpose. Such essays present a carefully reasoned argument in support of their position and enlist appropriate evidence from the text that supports it. Their prose demonstrates an impressive control of the elements of effective writing, matching the style of the text under examination—though the student essay is not flawless.
 - 7 Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 essays but feature either more purposeful arguments or a greater command of prose style.
 - 6 Essays scoring 6 accurately assess the purpose of the author and the effective use of language tools to support that purpose. Their arguments, while generally sound in nature and adequately supported, are nevertheless not as persuasive as papers earning scores of 7 or better due to their being less developed or less cogent. Though these papers may feature lapses in diction or syntax they are generally clear and effective.
 - 5 Essays scoring 5 generally understand the task but are either limited in scope or insufficiently developed. Though they may be marked by errors in syntax or diction, they nevertheless reflect a certain level of competence.
 - 4 Essays scoring 4 respond inadequately to the question’s task, often misunderstanding, misrepresenting, or oversimplifying the author’s attitude, or providing insufficient evidence as to the rhetorical techniques he or she uses to convey the perspective. Though the prose is often adequate enough to convey the writer’s claims, it generally suggests a limited control over organization, diction, or syntax.
 - 3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4, but are either less persuasive in illustrating how the author used rhetorical techniques, or display a more limited control over the elements of effective composition.
 - 2 Essays scoring 2 achieve little success in illustrating how the author uses rhetorical techniques. They may on occasion misread the passage, fail to develop their argument to any substantive level, summarize rather than analyze the passage, or display significant weaknesses in organization, clarity, fluency, or mechanics.
 - 1 Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are either overly simplistic or marred by severe deficiencies in the elements of composition.
 - 0 Essays scoring 0 offer an off-topic response that receives no credit or a mere repetition of the prompt.
- Indicates a blank or completely off-topic response.