

ESL 263 Portfolio Scoring Guide

HIGH PASS

A majority of the portfolio displays **clear competence**, both at the rhetorical and syntactic levels.

Ideas

- Clear understanding of readings and topics.
- Strong awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic.
- Clear ability to respond critically to experiences and ideas.
- All paragraphs have clear and focused topic sentences.

Organization

- All writing assignments have a cohesive structure which supports a common topic.
- Each individual paragraph in the assignment has a topic sentence, support/development, and a concluding sentence.
- All paragraphs are logically organized.

Development

- All paragraphs contain appropriate examples, explanation and paraphrases that support the controlling idea for the paragraph.
- All paragraphs clearly and consistently explain the relationship between examples and ideas.
- Clear evidence of strong synthesis, argumentation, analysis and/or problem solving skills.

Language

- Shows advanced knowledge of English grammar, including complex verb tenses.
- Demonstrates linguistic fluency with few errors in verb tense, word forms, determiners, prepositions, punctuation and spelling.
- Demonstrates consistent sentence complexity and variety (noun, adjective and adverb clauses).
- Demonstrates appropriate use of advanced vocabulary.

PASS

A majority of the portfolio displays **adequate competence**, both at the rhetorical and syntactic levels.

Ideas

- Basic understanding of readings and topics.
- Most writing assignments show some awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic.
- Most writing assignments show an adequate ability to respond critically to experiences and ideas
- Most paragraphs have clear and focused topic sentences.

Organization

- Most writing assignments have a cohesive structure which support a common topic.
- Most paragraphs are generally well organized.
- Each individual paragraph in the assignment has a topic sentence, support/development, and a concluding sentence.

Development

- Adequately develops appropriate examples, explanation and paraphrases based on the controlling idea for the paragraph although development may be thin at times.
- Usually explains the relationship between examples and ideas, albeit not consistently.
- Across the portfolio, writing shows evidence of synthesis, argumentation, analysis and/or problem solving skills.

Language

- Demonstrates a basic knowledge of English grammar, including complex verb tenses. May contain some errors in verb tense, word forms, determiners, prepositions, punctuation and spelling, but errors generally do not impair meaning.
- Demonstrates limited sentence complexity and variety (noun, adjective and adverb clauses).
- Demonstrates appropriate use of some advanced vocabulary. May have some awkward expressions, but errors generally do not impair meaning.

NO PASS

A majority of the portfolio displays **inadequacy** either at the rhetorical or the syntactic level, or both, thus lacking the characteristics of the passing portfolios.

Ideas

- Limited understanding of readings and topics.
- Limited awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic.
- Most writing assignments show minimal ability to respond critically to experiences and ideas
- Some writing assignments contain vague, unclear, and/or unfocused topic sentences.

Organization

- Most writing assignments lack a cohesive structure which supports the common topic
- Most paragraphs are generally not well organized.
- Uneven or superficial relationship between supporting ideas and topic sentence.

Development

- Writing assignments often do not develop a topic sentence with substantive content and relevant examples; examples may be few, with minimal or superficial explanations of what the ideas demonstrate.
- Across the portfolio, writing does not show synthesis, argumentation, analysis and/or problem solving skills; often large sections of summary, narrative, and/or description are offered to develop ideas.

Language

- Demonstrates limited knowledge of English grammar. May contain frequent errors in verb tense, word forms, determiners, prepositions, punctuation and spelling, many of which impair meaning.
- Demonstrates limited sentence complexity and variety. Mostly simple sentences or many errors in complex sentences.
- Uses mostly simple vocabulary. May have many awkward expressions which often impair meaning.