Portfolio Scoring Guide

**Mastery:** The majority of the portfolio displays these characteristics.

**Ideas**
- Clear understanding of readings and essay topics
- Strong awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
- Clear ability to respond critically to one’s own and others’ experiences and ideas

**Organization**
- Controlling central idea and overall cohesive structure in each essay
- Clear sequential relationship between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea.
- Focused, cohesive paragraphs

**Development**
- Relevant examples with clear explanations of what the examples demonstrate
- Explanations in body paragraphs clearly linked to controlling idea of essay
- Examples which include detailed support
- Evidence of strong synthesis, argumentation, analysis, and/or problem-solving skills

**Style**
- Sentence variety
- Strong voice and control of tone
- Effective vocabulary

**Mechanics**
- Fluency and control of sentence construction
- Almost no syntactic, grammatical, and spelling errors

**Competence:** The majority of the portfolio will display these characteristics.

**Ideas**
- Demonstration of basic understanding of readings and essay topics
- Most essays show awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
- Demonstration of ability to respond critically to one’s own and others’ experiences and ideas.

**Organization**
- Controlling central idea and generally cohesive structure in each essay
- Generally clear sequential relationship between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea.
- Generally focused, cohesive paragraphs
Development
• Mainly relevant examples with clear explanations of what the examples demonstrate
• Explanations in body paragraphs usually linked to controlling idea of essay
• Most examples include specific details
• Across the portfolio, writing shows evidence of synthesis, argumentation, analysis, and/or problem-solving skills

Style
• Sentences include some variety
• Sentences usually include effective vocabulary

Mechanics
• General fluency and control of sentence construction
• Minimal syntactic, grammatical, and spelling errors

Not passing: The majority of the portfolio lacks the characteristics of the passing portfolios.

Ideas
• Limited understanding of readings and essay topics
• Limited awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
• The portfolio includes minimal critical response to one’s own and others’ experiences and ideas.

Organization
• Lacks overall of a central focus and logical structure
• Light or uneven relationships between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea
• The majority of the paragraphs do not cohere and are not focused

Development
• Body paragraphs include few examples or minimal explanations of what the examples demonstrate
• Explanations in body paragraphs occasionally linked to the controlling idea of the essay
• Examples occasionally include specific details
• Across the portfolio, essays are mainly developed through summary, narrative and/or description

Style
• Sentences only occasionally show variety
• Vocabulary is very basic

Mechanics
• Limited fluency and control of sentence construction
• Frequent syntactical, grammar, and/or spelling errors