**ACT Plus Writing Essay Rubric**

Essay Comments, derived from the Scoring Rubric, are selected by ACT readers to help student writers understand the strengths and weaknesses of their essays. The Comments appear in their entirety on the Student Report. The code numbers for the selected Comments are listed on the High School and College Reports.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
| **Make and Articulate Judgments** | 21. Your essay responded to the prompt by taking aclear position on the issue. | 22. Your essay acknowledged counterarguments onthe issue but did not discuss them. | 23. Your essay showed recognition of the complexityof the issue by addressing counterarguments. | 24. Your essay showed recognition of the complexity of the issue by partially evaluating its implications. | 25. Your essay addressed the complexity of theissue by fully responding to counterarguments.OR26. Your essay addressed the complexity of theissue by evaluating its implications. | 25. Your essay addressed the complexity of theissue by fully responding to counterarguments.AND26. Your essay addressed the complexity of theissue by evaluating its implications. |
| **Develop Ideas** | 30. Your essay provided very little writing about yourideas. Try to write more about the topic. | 31. The ideas in your essay needed to be more fullyexplained and supported with more details. | 32. Your essay used some specific details, reasons,and examples, but it needed more of them. | 33. Your essay adequately supported generalstatements with specific reasons, examples, anddetails. | 34. General statements in your essay were wellsupported with specific reasons, examples, anddetails. | 35. Your essay effectively supported generalstatements with specific reasons, examples, anddetails. |
| **Sustain Focus** | 40. Your writing did not maintain a focus on theissue. Try to plan your essay before you write. | 40. Your writing did not maintain a focus on theissue. Try to plan your essay before you write. | 41. Your essay focused on the general topic ratherthan on the specific issue in the prompt. | 41. Your essay focused on the general topic ratherthan on the specific issue in the prompt. | 42. Your essay maintained focus on the specificissue in the prompt. | 42. Your essay maintained focus on the specificissue in the prompt. |
| **Organize and Present Ideas** | 50. Your essay lacked organization. Try to plan andarrange your ideas logically. | 51. Your essay was not clearly organized. Try to planand arrange your ideas logically. | 52. Your essay showed basic organizationalstructure, but the ideas needed to be moreclearly connected. | 53. The organization of your essay was adequate,but the rigid structure seemed to limit discussion. | 54. Your essay was well organized, making it easy tounderstand logical relationships among ideas. | 55. The logical sequence of ideas in your essay fit itspersuasive purpose well. |
| **Communicate Clearly** | 61. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors weredistracting. Proofread your writing. | 62. Using correct grammar and more variedsentence structures would improve your essay. | 63. Using more varied sentence structures wouldmake your essay clearer and more engaging. | 64. Using more sentence variety and precise wordchoice would make your essay clearer and moreengaging. | 65. Some varied sentence structures and preciseword choice added clarity and interest to yourwriting. | 66. Your essay showed a good command oflanguage by using varied sentences and preciseword choice. |