**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 a  clear position on the issue. | 22. Your essay acknowledged counterarguments on  the issue but did not discuss them. | 23. Your essay showed recognition of the complexity  of 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 the  issue by fully responding to counterarguments.  OR  26. Your essay addressed the complexity of the  issue by evaluating its implications. | 25. Your essay addressed the complexity of the  issue by fully responding to counterarguments.  AND  26. Your essay addressed the complexity of the  issue by evaluating its implications. |
| **Develop Ideas** | 30. Your essay provided very little writing about your  ideas. Try to write more about the topic. | 31. The ideas in your essay needed to be more fully  explained 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 general  statements with specific reasons, examples, and  details. | 34. General statements in your essay were well  supported with specific reasons, examples, and  details. | 35. Your essay effectively supported general  statements with specific reasons, examples, and  details. |
| **Sustain Focus** | 40. Your writing did not maintain a focus on the  issue. Try to plan your essay before you write. | 40. Your writing did not maintain a focus on the  issue. Try to plan your essay before you write. | 41. Your essay focused on the general topic rather  than on the specific issue in the prompt. | 41. Your essay focused on the general topic rather  than on the specific issue in the prompt. | 42. Your essay maintained focus on the specific  issue in the prompt. | 42. Your essay maintained focus on the specific  issue in the prompt. |
| **Organize and Present Ideas** | 50. Your essay lacked organization. Try to plan and  arrange your ideas logically. | 51. Your essay was not clearly organized. Try to plan  and arrange your ideas logically. | 52. Your essay showed basic organizational  structure, but the ideas needed to be more  clearly 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 to  understand logical relationships among ideas. | 55. The logical sequence of ideas in your essay fit its  persuasive purpose well. |
| **Communicate Clearly** | 61. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors were  distracting. Proofread your writing. | 62. Using correct grammar and more varied  sentence structures would improve your essay. | 63. Using more varied sentence structures would  make your essay clearer and more engaging. | 64. Using more sentence variety and precise word  choice would make your essay clearer and more  engaging. | 65. Some varied sentence structures and precise  word choice added clarity and interest to your  writing. | 66. Your essay showed a good command of  language by using varied sentences and precise  word choice. |