

# **Oregon’s Official Writing Scoring Guide: Key Elements**

Informative/Explanatory Writing, Argumentative Writing, and Research Projects

## **Ideas and Content**

- Claim, counterclaims, focus
- Supporting details
- Use of resources

**5 – Well-developed claims and counterclaims / relevant details / significant facts**

**4 – Identifiable purpose / claim is explored / support is present**

**3 – Infer main idea(s) / limited support / counterclaims ignored**

## **Organization**

- Order and structure
- Use of transitional strategies
- Introduction and conclusion
- Sequencing

**5 – Effective sequencing / sense of continuity / inviting**

**4 – Clear and coherent / formulaic / adequate**

**3 – Attempt to organize / inconsistent or skeletal**

## **Voice**

- Commitment to the topic
- Sense of “writing to be read”
- Formal style
- Originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction

**5 – Appropriate level of formality / strong sense of audience / effective**

**4 – Seems committed / engaging in places**

**3 – Limited sense of audience / mechanical**

## **Word Choice**

- Accuracy and precision of words used
- Domain-specific words
- Academic language
- Variety

**5 – Broad range of accurate specific words / evoke clear images**

**4 – Variety of words / functional**

**3 – Lacks precision and variety / generic**

## **Sentence Fluency**

- Flow and rhythm
- Variety in sentence beginnings, length, and structure
- Fragments, dialogue

**5 – Carefully crafted / strong and varied structure / well-controlled**

**4 – Mostly fluid / some variety / varied control**

**3 – Mechanical / repetitive patterns / lapses in control**

## **Conventions**

- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Grammar and usage

**5 – Strong control / wide range / little need for editing**

**4 – Control / moderate need for editing**

**3 – Limited control / significant need for editing**

## **Use of Sources**

- Use of authoritative sources
- Avoids plagiarism
- Acknowledgement of sources
- In-text documentation
- Bibliography or sources cited page

**5 – Multiple authoritative sources / clearly and accurately identified and documented**

**4 – Several authoritative sources / generally documented correctly**

**3 – Limited use of source material / inconsistently documented**