

Section 6: The Language of Scoring Scales

About This Section:

This section is a supplement to the Scoring Scales found in the previous section. It is intended to clarify and/or answer any questions about terminology used in the scales. Although this information will not normally be printed with the scoring scales, the language should be familiar to both teachers and students.

Analytical Essay (20 point question)

Content:

- **treatment of prompt** – all elements of the writing prompt (the question) are addressed appropriately
- **selection of references** – specific and appropriate references from the text are chosen to support ideas
- **explanation of references** – analysis of selected references to support the writer's thesis
- **insights about text** – perceptive and skillful inferences are drawn from the text

Composition:

- **coherence** – logical sequence of ideas within and between sentences/paragraphs; transitional words or phrases connect ideas
- **diction** - word choice is clear, effective and varied
- **mechanics** - command of conventions such as sentence construction, sentence usage, spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation
- **organization** – introduction and conclusion, with a clear thesis maintained throughout the essay

Personal Response (10 point question)

- **content with support** – personal ideas are well-developed and relevant to the task
- **diction** – word choice is clear, effective and varied
- **mechanics** – command of conventions such as sentence construction, sentence usage, spelling, grammar, capitalization and punctuation
- **organization** – ideas are presented in a clear and focused manner
- **voice** – personality of the writer is evident