

CONTENT: Central Idea, Development, and Organization

Key Questions: Does the writer stay focused and respond to all parts of the task? Does the writer’s use of the text show an understanding of the passage and the writing task? Does the organizational structure strengthen the writer’s ideas and make the composition easier to understand?

Score Point	4 Consistent, though not necessarily perfect, control; many strengths present	3 Reasonable control; some strengths and some weaknesses	2 Inconsistent control; the weaknesses outweigh the strengths	1 Little or no control; minimal attempt
CENTRAL IDEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sharply focused central idea shows a complete understanding of the task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear central idea shows a general understanding of the task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vague central idea shows a partial understanding of the task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unclear or absent central idea shows a lack of understanding of the task
USE OF THE PASSAGE(S) AND DEVELOPMENT	<p>A composition that addresses only one of the two passages cannot receive a score higher than a 3 in Content.</p> <p>A score of 4 cannot be assigned unless both passages have been addressed.</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes ample, well-chosen evidence from the passages to support central idea Evidence and ideas are developed thoroughly. Details are specific, relevant, and accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes sufficient and appropriate evidence from at least one of the passages to support central idea Evidence and ideas are developed adequately (may be uneven). Details are, for the most part, relevant and accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes insufficient or no evidence from the passage(s), OR only summarizes or paraphrases passage information Evidence and ideas are not developed adequately (list-like). Some information may be irrelevant or inaccurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes minimal or no evidence from the passage(s) and/or evidence shows a misunderstanding of the passage minimal/no development Information is irrelevant, inaccurate, minimal, confusing.
ORGANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of planning and logical order allow reader to easily move through the composition. Clear beginning, middle, and ending contribute to sense of wholeness. effective transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical order allows reader to move through the composition. has a beginning and an ending transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempt at organization digressions, repetition weak beginning and ending may lack transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> random order no beginning or ending difficult for the reader to move through the response