

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 AND DEVELOPMENT	A composition without information from the passage cannot receive a score higher than a 2 in Content.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes ample, well-chosen information from the passage to support central idea Passage information and ideas are developed thoroughly. Details are specific, relevant, and accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes sufficient and appropriate information from the passage to support central idea Passage information 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 information from the passage ideas are not developed adequately (list-like) Some information may be irrelevant or inaccurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes minimal or no information from the passage and/or the information 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 and ending effective linking words and phrases sense of wholeness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical order allows reader to move through the composition without confusion. has a beginning and ending some linking words and phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempt at organization weak beginning, ending may lack linking words and phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> random order no beginning or ending difficult for the reader to move through the response