

# Portfolio Scoring Guide

**Mastery:** *The majority of the portfolio displays these characteristics.*

## Ideas

- Clear understanding of readings and essay topics
- Strong awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
- Clear ability to respond critically to one's own and others' experiences and ideas

## Organization

- Controlling central idea and overall cohesive structure in each essay
- Clear sequential relationship between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea.
- Focused, cohesive paragraphs

## Development

- Relevant examples with clear explanations of what the examples demonstrate
- Explanations in body paragraphs clearly linked to controlling idea of essay
- Examples which include detailed support
- Evidence of strong synthesis, argumentation, analysis, and/or problem-solving skills

## Style

- Sentence variety
- Strong voice and control of tone
- Effective vocabulary

## Mechanics

- Fluency and control of sentence construction
- Almost no syntactic, grammatical, and spelling errors

**Competence:** *The majority of the portfolio will display these characteristics.*

## Ideas

- Demonstration of basic understanding of readings and essay topics
- Most essays show awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
- Demonstration of ability to respond critically to one's own and others' experiences and ideas.

### **Organization**

- Controlling central idea and generally cohesive structure in each essay
- Generally clear sequential relationship between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea.
- Generally focused, cohesive paragraphs

### **Development**

- Mainly relevant examples with clear explanations of what the examples demonstrate
- Explanations in body paragraphs usually linked to controlling idea of essay
- Most examples include specific details
- Across the portfolio, writing shows evidence of synthesis, argumentation, analysis, and/or problem-solving skills

### **Style**

- Sentences include some variety
- Sentences usually include effective vocabulary

### **Mechanics**

- General fluency and control of sentence construction
- Minimal syntactic, grammatical, and spelling errors

**Not passing:** *The majority of the portfolio lacks the characteristics of a passing portfolio.*

### **Ideas**

- Limited understanding of readings and essay topics
- Limited awareness of what the reader needs to know about the topic
- The portfolio includes minimal critical response to one's own and others' experiences and ideas.

### **Organization**

- Lacks overall of a central focus and logical structure
- Light or uneven relationships between supporting ideas and central argument/controlling idea
- The majority of the paragraphs do not cohere and are not focused

**Development**

- The portfolio includes minimal critical response to one's own and others' experiences and ideas
- Body paragraphs include few examples or minimal explanations of what the examples demonstrate
- Explanations in body paragraphs occasionally linked to the controlling idea of the essay
- Examples occasionally include specific details
- Across the portfolio, essays are mainly developed through summary, narrative and/or description

**Style**

- Sentences only occasionally show variety
- Vocabulary is very basic

**Mechanics**

- Limited fluency and control of sentence construction
- Frequent syntactical, grammar, and/or spelling errors