Multi-Paragraph Scoring Guide

	Content – what is said:	Written Expression – how it's said:
6 – WOW! Your composition is engaging and developed with originality and flair. The writing is consistently strong in content and expression.	☐ Introduction captures the audience's attention with an imaginative lead ☐ Thesis is clearly articulated, engaging, and developed throughout the composition ☐ Paragraphs are well-developed with insightful support and organized for an intentional effective ☐ Concluding paragraph is original, creative, and discerning; it presents a convincing, final statement	☐ Writing is focused and on topic, with strong voice and expression ☐ Vocabulary and word choice are effective and sophisticated ☐ Sentence structure is varied and controlled; transitional and topic sentences are well executed ☐ Few mechanical or spelling errors
5 – STRONG! Your composition is effective and has a clear sense of purpose; however, there are areas of minor weakness that could be further polished.	☐ Introduction directs the reader to the topic in an interesting way ☐ Thesis argues a clear point, and is developed through composition ☐ Paragraphs are well-developed with appropriate support and logically organized ☐ Concluding paragraph engages the reader; it presents a final statement	☐ Writing is focused and on topic ☐ Vocabulary and word choice are appropriate ☐ Sentence structure is varied and competent; transitional and topic sentences are used carefully ☐ Mechanical or spelling errors are minor and do not interfere
4 – GOOD Your composition is competent and straightforward; there are areas of weakness that could be developed with more originality of thought or expression.	☐ Introduction states the main idea of the essay but may be predictable ☐ Thesis is simply expressed and developed through the composition ☐ Paragraphs exist with adequate support and are organized logically ☐ Concluding paragraph makes a final statement, but is predictable in its ideas	☐ Writing is generally clear and remains on topic ☐ Vocabulary and word choice are simple but correct ☐ Sentence structure is correct, but simple; transitional and topic sentences are predictable ☐ Some mechanical or spelling errors are present but do not affect understanding
3 – A PASS Your composition is passable and basic; deeper exploration of the ideas and more effective expression are required.	☐ Introduction is present but is unimaginative; may be linked to first body paragraph ☐ Thesis is apparent but weak or not directly supported by the composition ☐ Paragraphs may be brief, unimaginative, or off topic; organization is difficult to follow ☐ Concluding paragraph makes a final statement but is over-simplified	☐ Writing is unfocused but attempts to address the topic ☐ Vocabulary is basic and repetitive ☐ Sentence structure is awkward or simplistic; transitional and topic sentences may not be effective ☐ Mechanical or spelling errors are present but do not impact meaning
2 – ALMOST Your composition is weak and under-developed. More attention to developing ideas and structuring the composition are required.	☐ Introduction is not present or is mixed into the main body of the composition ☐ Thesis is suggested but not clearly stated or developed ☐ Paragraphs may be too poorly developed or organized to communicate meaning ☐ Concluding paragraph is not present or mixed into a body paragraph	☐ Writing is unfocused and often unclear ☐ Vocabulary is informal and often colloquial ☐ Simple sentence forms predominate; transitional sentences are not present ☐ Numerous mechanical or spelling errors disrupt the flow of the writing
1 – NOT YET Your composition is inaccurate or incomplete.	☐ No attempt to include an introduction and conclusion to frame the composition ☐ Structure is very weak – very brief or single paragraph ☐ Ideas are poorly developed with little sequence or logic	☐ Controlling idea and purpose are not clear ☐ Vocabulary is immature or vague; word choice is not appropriate ☐ Frequent grammar or spelling errors impede understanding
0 – NOT AT ALL	☐ The composition is too brief to evaluate or is not present at all.	