

# San Jose State University

## WST Scoring Guidelines

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The WST essay is scored by two readers, using a 0-6 point scale. The scores from both readers are combined to produce a total score (12 maximum). Scoring is based on the following rhetorical and syntactic guidelines:

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|---|--|
| ✓ maturity of thought and expression      | ✓ fluency with language, syntactic variety |
| ✓ understanding and response to the topic | ✓ grammar and sentence mechanics           |
| ✓ organization, support, and development  |  |
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### **6 = Superior competence in writing.**

- addresses the topic with maturity of thought and expression; the paper moves beyond a narration
- understands the topic and its implications accurately and in some depth
- shows superior organization and is thoroughly developed
- demonstrates a high level of syntactic variety and range of vocabulary
- is nearly free of errors, shows masterful control of language

### **5 = Clear competence in writing, though it may have occasional minor errors.**

- addresses the topic with more than adequate maturity of thought
- clearly understands most aspects of the topic
- shows good organization and supports ideas with specifics
- shows some syntactic variety and range of vocabulary
- demonstrates facility with language; may lack high-level diction, word choice, and sentence control

### **4 = Competence in writing.**

- addresses the topic adequately, though perhaps not completely
- may contain a slight misreading of the topic
- uses some detail to support a thesis or illustrate ideas
- demonstrates adequate but not distinguished facility with language and syntax
- may contain a few simple errors that interfere with meaning

### **3 = Developing competence, but remains flawed in one or more areas.**

- lacks maturity of thought and expression
- may not understand major points of the topic
- may not support generalizations with appropriate or sufficient detail
- may contain multiple errors in syntax and usage
- may contain a pattern of errors

### **2 = Limited competence; may be seriously flawed in one or more areas.**

- does not reveal ideas beyond the most basic
- may seriously misread the topic or be off-focus
- fails to organize or develop ideas
- demonstrates serious problems with fluency and syntax
- contains serious and frequent errors

### **1 = Incompetence in writing.**

- A "1" paper may reveal the writer's inability to comprehend the question, may be incoherent, or impressively illogical.
- A paper that is severely underdeveloped falls into this category.

### **0 = Either rejects the assignment, is a non-response, or the score was cancelled.**