

The combined scores of content and form—each contributing 5 points—create the paragraph total score (10 points).

CONTENT: *what you say*

FORM: *how you say it*

Criteria for a *content* score of . . .

Criteria for a *form* score of . . .

Content-Substance-Message-Meaning	Form-Style-Medium-Structure
5 = Consistent weaving of lucid statements (telling) & convincing evidence (showing); close and logical fit between telling & showing; sincere as well as compelling ideas & illustrations; opinions & interpretations based on actual text or events—the reader and writer can disagree as long as the writer’s opinions or conclusions are grounded in the text or known facts; the controlling idea and conclusions are insightful	5 = Deftly sets up and meets the reader’s expectations; well phrased controlling idea (topic sentence) directs ¶ development; clear and economical as well as engaging and graceful sentence structure; effective beginning & ending; emphatic closure; no unintentional fragments or run-on sentences; no significant readability barriers or distractions; the telling (statements), showing (proof), and strong closure give a sense of wholeness
4 = More than adequate amount and quality of statements and evidence; accuracy, logic, and examples are very good but slightly less than great; the controlling idea, statements, and conclusions are interesting as well as supported	4 = The reader’s expectations are set up and met more than adequately; the sentence structure and paragraph organization are generally strong; no readability distractions, including unintentional fragments or run-ons; the ¶ feels unified
3 = Adequate balance between statements and evidence; the paragraph offers understandable statements and reasonable evidence, but the thoughts and/or proof could probably go further; the controlling idea, statements, and conclusions are supported	3 = The reader’s expectations are set up and met adequately; the controlling idea and supporting evidence are present but not robust; the sentence structure is readable; few unintentional fragments or run-ons; some sense of closure is present
2 = Inadequate amount or quality of statements and evidence; the paragraph has some statements and evidence, but the paragraph offers little of substance to the reader	2 = The reader’s expectations are set up and met less than adequately; the paragraph is more readable than a “one,” but the sentence structure and paragraph organization are weak
1 = Consists of statements without evidence; no substance or points of interest; distant or poorly reasoned fit between telling and showing; opinions and interpretations stated without reference to textual evidence; insincere or obvious controlling idea or conclusions	1 = Neither sets up nor meets the reader’s expectations; difficult or confusing to understand; poorly phrased controlling idea; weak, scattered, or rambling ¶ development; missing or ineffective beginning & ending; lack of closure; many fragments, run-ons, or proofreading errors; no sense of ¶ unity

SYMBOLS:

- ! insightful and/or entertaining + The content or form of this passage is strong ✓ Adequately done but could be stronger CONTENT/FORM
- Needs revision ? The reader is unclear about this passage Study the boxed area and revise