

How ACT Writing Scores* Are Reported

ACT SCORES AND NORMS (See ACT Assessment User Handbook)				
TESTS AND SUBSCORE AREAS	TEST SCORES (1-36)	SUBSCORES (1-18)	PERCENT OF ACT-TESTED STUDENTS AT OR BELOW SCORE	
			NATIONAL	STATE
ENGLISH	24		76	79
Usage/Mechanics		13	79	84
Rhetorical Skills		12	75	78
MATHEMATICS	17		34	41
Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra		09	41	49
Intermediate Algebra/Coord. Geometry		10	55	62
Plane Geometry/Trigonometry		08	25	27
READING	25		75	77
Social Studies/Sciences		10	51	54
Arts/Literature		14	79	81
SCIENCE	18		30	36
COMPOSITE (Average) SCORE	21		57	62
* ENGLISH/WRITING	25		81	
WRITING (RANGE 2-12)		10	96	
COMMENTS ON ESSAY				
(SEE WWW.ACT.ORG) : 24, 34, 65				

Two scores are reported for the optional Writing Test: a Combined English/Writing score on a scale of 1–36 and a Writing Test subscore on a scale of 2–12. The two scores are reported in addition to the scores and subscores on the multiple-choice tests in the ACT Assessment® and the Composite score for those tests. ACT also provides students with comments about their performance on the Writing Test.

These comments will appear in their entirety on the Student Report for the ACT Assessment for those students who take the Writing Test. The numbers (“comment codes”) for the comments selected will be listed in the High School and College Reports for each student. Text corresponding to each comment code appears on the reverse of this sheet. Comments are organized by scoring feature (i.e., all organization comments are together, all development comments, etc.).

ACT Plus Writing Essay Comments

Essay comments, derived from the scoring rubric, are selected by ACT scorers to help student writers understand the strengths and weaknesses of their essays.

The comments appear in their entirety on the Student Score Report. The code numbers for the comments are listed on the High School and College Score Reports. Complete text for each comment code appears below.

No Writing Results

01. The pages submitted for the Writing Test could not be scored. No score is possible if the pages were left blank or were marked void at the test center, or if the essay is illegible, is not written in English, or does not respond to the prompt. In any of these cases, no Combined English/Writing score or Writing subscore can be reported.
02. A Combined English/Writing score and Writing subscore can be reported only when there is a valid English score. Because there were no responses to any items on the multiple-choice English Test, no Combined English/Writing or Writing results can be reported.

Make and Articulate Judgments

20. Your essay responded to the prompt by taking a position on the issue.
21. Your essay responded to the prompt by taking a clear position on the issue.
22. Your essay acknowledged counterarguments on the issue but did not discuss them.
23. Your essay showed recognition of the complexity of the issue by addressing counterarguments.
24. Your essay showed recognition of the complexity of the issue by partially evaluating its implications.
25. Your essay addressed the complexity of the issue by fully responding to counterarguments.
26. Your essay addressed the complexity of the issue by evaluating its implications.

Develop Ideas

30. Your essay provided very little writing about your ideas. Try to write more about the topic.
31. The ideas in your essay needed to be more fully explained and supported with more details.
32. Your essay used some specific details, reasons, and examples, but it needed more of them.
33. Your essay adequately supported general statements with specific reasons, examples, and details.
34. General statements in your essay were well supported with specific reasons, examples, and details.
35. Your essay effectively supported general statements with specific reasons, examples, and details.

Sustain Focus

40. Your writing did not maintain a focus on the issue. Try to plan your essay before you write.
41. Your essay focused on the general topic rather than on the specific issue in the prompt.
42. Your essay maintained focus on the specific issue in the prompt.

Organize and Present Ideas

50. Your essay lacked organization. Try to plan and arrange your ideas logically.
51. Your essay was not clearly organized. Try to plan and arrange your ideas logically.
52. Your essay showed basic organizational structure, but the ideas needed to be more clearly connected.
53. The organization of your essay was adequate, but the rigid structure seemed to limit discussion.
54. Your essay was well organized, making it easy to understand logical relationships among ideas.
55. The logical sequence of ideas in your essay fit its persuasive purpose well.

Communicate Clearly

60. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors made your essay difficult to understand.
61. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors were distracting. Proofread your writing.
62. Using correct grammar and more varied sentence structures would improve your essay.
63. Using more varied sentence structures would make your essay clearer and more engaging.
64. Using more sentence variety and precise word choice would make your essay clearer and more engaging.
65. Some varied sentence structures and precise word choice added clarity and interest to your writing.
66. Your essay showed a good command of language by using varied sentences and precise word choice.