
ECCE WRITING ASSESSMENT

What is a Pass and What is a Fail?



HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION
An educational public charity

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The American University in Greece

Desired Outcome

- Enhance ability to assess writing as Pass or Fail using Scoring Criteria for ECCE Writing Section
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Overview of Presentation

- Brief overview of 4 descriptors of scoring rubric
- Focus on individual descriptors
- Interaction of descriptors
- Benchmarked writing samples*
- Writing samples* for further practice

* student writing from an ECCE preparation course

SCORING CRITERIA FOR ECCE WRITING SECTION

	CONTENT AND DEVELOPMENT	ORGANIZATION AND CONNECTION OF IDEAS	LINGUISTIC RANGE AND CONTROL	COMMUNICATIVE EFFECT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of content to task • Quality of ideas used to develop the response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangement of content • How language is used to link ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety and precision of grammar and vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well communicative goals are achieved 	
EXCEEDS STANDARD	A	Richly develops an argument with original supporting details.	Smooth, effective arrangement and connection of ideas. A variety of cohesive devices are used effectively.	Broad range of grammar and vocabulary used accurately. If any errors are present they are minor and insignificant.	Appropriate register, awareness of audience, and establishment of context fully enhance the intended effect on the reader.
	B	Fully develops an argument with appropriate supporting details.	Appropriate and clear organization and connection of ideas. Transition markers used appropriately and not mechanically.	Good range of grammar and vocabulary; mostly accurate with only occasional errors.	Appropriate register, awareness of audience, and establishment of context help the reader to follow the text.
STANDARD	C	Adequately develops an argument. May rely on prompt for content.	Ideas clearly and adequately organized. Standard connectors used appropriately but somewhat mechanically.	Sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task. Errors in grammar and vocabulary do not interfere with reader's comprehension.	Adequate sense of audience and purpose for writing generally allow the reader to follow the text.
BELOW STANDARD	D	Inadequate development of argument. Content may be limited or primarily based on prompt. Some content may be irrelevant to the topic.	Simple, basic organization of ideas. Although standard connectors may be present, ideas themselves are not always connected.	A range of structures may be attempted, but grammar and vocabulary errors are frequent and interfere with reader's comprehension.	Some misunderstanding of audience and purpose and inappropriate register may have a negative effect and hinder the reader's comprehension of the text.
	E	Little or no development of argument. Content is irrelevant or taken directly from the prompt.	Minimal or no organization. Connectors may be inappropriately used. Connection may not be apparent.	Grammar and vocabulary errors predominate and cause significant confusion.	Lacks audience awareness and purpose for writing.

ECCE Stimulus and Prompt* for Writing Samples (Appendix B)

THE CITY TIMES TROUBLE AGAIN AT THE STADIUM

Police were called to Victory Stadium last night when a fight broke out during the game between a player and a fan. Other players and fans got involved, and at least 30 people were injured. This is the third time this month that there has been violence at a sporting event. The National Sports Association is considering a number of new measures to reduce violence at the games.

Task 1: Letter

Violence at sporting events is often caused by the spectators who are there. Write a letter to the editor giving examples of violence you have seen or heard about at sporting events and explain what actions the authorities could take to prevent future violence. Start your letter, “Dear Editor.”

Task 2: Essay

Many types of entertainment events have large audiences—for example, theater productions, musical performances, and sports events. Usually the audiences are well behaved, but sometimes they become violent. Why do some audiences become violent? Explain, giving specific details to support your view.

*This writing stimulus and prompt have been taken from the University of Michigan May-June 2007 ECCE past paper.

Scoring Criteria: Content and Development – understanding the descriptor

- Relevance of content to task
- Quality of ideas used to develop response

Minimum Pass:

- Adequately develops argument
- May rely on prompt for content

Fail:

- Inadequate development of argument
 - Content may be limited or primarily based on prompt
 - Some content may be irrelevant to the topic
-

Scoring Criteria: Content and Development – writing sample

Activity: Why would the following writing sample (pp. 14-15) fail in terms of Content and Development? Share your answers with a colleague.

Entertainment events usually have large audiences. People want to enjoy, to overcome their problems, to take 'spiritual' food, so they participate as the audience to a theater production, a musical performance and basically to sports events.

Usually the audiences are well behaved, but sometimes in special causes a small number of them become violent. I wonder who they are, in which entertainment events exist examples of violence, why they become violent, who allows them to destroy everything they want?

Violence at sporting events is often caused by the spectators who are there. I believe that few groups with fans who have prepared to involved in troubles become violent. They are, basically, young people who want to give vent to their energy with that negative way.

Scoring Criteria: Content and Development – revised writing sample

Added introduction

The media is report more incidence of violence where there are large audiences, like football matches, concerts, plays. The public wonder why, so this essay gives several reasons to explain it. [1]

Specificity and supporting details

Few groups with fans who have prepared to involved in troubles become violent. They are mostly young people who want to give vent to their energy with that negative way. [2] For example, the violence at recent match between Olympiakos and Panathenaikos involve mostly young men. Most are school leavers who cannot find work and sit home to feel bored. They haven't way to show their frustration and so one bad referee decision become an excuse to vent their energy. [3]

Further elaboration through a second example

The violence is not only at football matches and not only from young men. At the Jay Lo concert, people were angry that they paid much money for tickets and she only sung for fifty minute. They didn't think that they got what they paid, so they start to throw things to the stage. [4]

Conclusion and personal commentary

These examples show that people have to be treated fair, in the case of young men, to be given jobs to earn a living and in case of angry Jay Lo fans, to get what they paid. If people treated fair, then they don't react with many violences at public events. [5]

Scoring Criteria: Content and Development – summary of key features

Writing that passes for this descriptor:

- Uses content that is relevant to task
 - Avoids word-for-word use of stimulus and prompt
 - Employs relevant, original ideas and develops them with supporting details and examples
-

Scoring Criteria: Organization and Connection of Ideas – understanding the descriptor

- Arrangement of content
- How language is used to link ideas

Minimum Pass:

- Ideas clearly and adequately organized
- Standard connectors used appropriately but somewhat mechanically

Fail:

- Simple, basic organization of ideas
 - Although standard connectors may be present, ideas themselves are not always connected
-

Scoring Criteria: Organization and Connection of Ideas – writing sample

Activity: Why would this writing (p. 16) fail in terms of Organization and Connection of Ideas? Share your answers with a colleague.

Today a lot of people like to go to theater productions, musical performances, sports events and other types of entertainment events. There are a lot of times that audiences become violent, especially at sports events as football and concerts in big opened places. Most of those audiences are fans of a famous person or team. A lot of them also are very young and fashionable persons. Furthermore there is the problem with drugs and alcohol that makes more complicated the behavior of a fan who thinks that the team disappointed him. Drugs and alcohol prevent them from think carefully about everything they do. Drugs and alcohol make them to do things they do not usually do. Maybe the fans throw things like food or stones. Maybe the fans try to move to where the players are. Even if the reason for a violent situation is without meaning, a fanatic person can do a murder for a seat or something totally useless. Some people are obsessed with their team. They follow their team everywhere. They are aggressive with the players to the other team. Many times they use violence, injuring other people. In my opinion, these are the reasons for violence at football games.

Scoring Criteria: Organization and Connection of Ideas – revised writing sample – part 1

Added Introduction

There are a lot of times that audiences become violent, especially at sports events as football and concerts in big opened places. This is a problem that we have to look at to find a solution. In my opinion, the two main reasons for the violence are drugs and alcohol, and obsessive fans. [1]

Specific Details

There is the problem with drugs and alcohol that makes more complicated the behavior of a fan who thinks that the team disappointed him. What do I mean by 'complicated behavior of fans'? [2] I mean that drugs and alcohol prevent them from think carefully about everything they do. These things make them to do things they do not usually do.

Scoring Criteria: Organization and Connection of Ideas – revised writing sample – part 2

Exemplification

For example, [3] maybe the fans throw things like food or stones, or Perhaps they try to move to where the players are. Even if the reason for a violent situation is without meaning to most of us [4], a drug addict or drunk can do a murder for a seat or something totally useless.

Transition to new idea

There are reasons for violence other than drugs and alcohol [5]. Some People are obsessed with their team and follow them everywhere. They are aggressive with the players to the other team. Many times they use violence, injuring other people.

Personal Commentary and conclusion referring to ideas in body of text

In my opinion, drugs and alcohol, as well as obsessive fans, are the reasons for violence at football games. If these things are controled, the level of violence will be less.

Scoring Criteria: Organization and Connection of Ideas – summary of key features

Writing that passes for this descriptor:

- States purpose for writing, generating expectations in reader about how writing will be organized
 - Has content arranged in logical, organized way
 - Uses connectors and other cohesive devices to link ideas
-

Scoring Criteria: Linguistic Range and Control

– understanding the descriptor

- Variety and precision of grammar and vocabulary

Minimum Pass:

- Sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task
- Errors in grammar and vocabulary do not interfere with reader's comprehension

Fail:

- Range of structures may be attempted, but grammar and vocabulary errors are frequent and interfere with reader's comprehension
-

Scoring Criteria: Linguistic Range and Control - letter

Activity: Why would this writing (p. 26) fail in terms of Linguistic Range and Control?

Dear Editor,

I would like to write you about the violence at sporting events in Greece especially in football games. In Greece I have seen the really violence many times before the football games, during the football games and after the football games on the roads. The fanatic hooligans usually use the vulgar language and they some times throw stones or wood pieces to the players or to the other football club fans. This create danger to the normal fans. Families stop to go to the stadiums long time ago. I usually go to the stadium to see my favourite football club panathinakes and always choose ticket in the gates farway of fanatic fans. I avoid to go to the stadium when my favourite team plays with derby.

In Greece during weekends usually we heard bad news like your article.

In the last years Greek government tried to take measures for eliminate the violence in the stadiums. One of them is to avoid to give tickets to the guest team fans. This measure is not good for the guest team players because they don't have the fans' support I believe that the problem is different. The rest of these fans are with out academic education, with poor backround knowledges and bad family environment.

Best regards
Lina Grigoriou

Scoring Criteria: Linguistic Range and Control – revised letter

Dear Editor,

I would like to write you about the violence at sporting events in Greece especially in football games. In Greece I have seen the really violence many times before, during and after the **matches** on the roads [1]. The **hooligans** [2] usually use the vulgar language and they some times throw stones or wood pieces to the players or to the other **club** [3] fans. This create danger to the normal fans. Families **stopped going** [4] to the stadiums long time ago. I usually go to the stadium to see my favourite **team** [5] Panathinakes [6] and always choose ticket in the gates farway of the **overenthusiastic people** [7]. I avoid to go to the stadium when my favourite team plays with **a rival team** [8].

In Greece during weekends **we usually hear** [9] bad news **like that we read in your article.** [10]

In the last years Greek government tried to take measures for eliminate the violence in the stadiums. One of them is to avoid to give tickets to the guest team fans. This measure is not good for the guest team players because they don't have **the support** [11] from the crowd in the stadium. I believe that the problem is different. The rest of these fans are with out academic education, with poor backround knowledges and bad family environment.

Best regards
Lina Grigoriou

Scoring Criteria: Linguistic Range and Control – summary of key features

Writing that passes for Linguistic Range and Control:

- Sufficient range of grammar to fulfill task
 - Errors in grammar *do not interfere with reader's comprehension*
 - Uses variety of vocabulary that contributes to comprehension of text
 - Aims for precision
 - Avoids repetition
-

Scoring Criteria: Communicative Effect – Understanding the Descriptor

- How well communicative goals are achieved

Minimum Pass:

- Adequate sense of audience and purpose for writing generally allow reader to follow text

Fail:

- Some misunderstanding of audience and purpose and appropriate register may have negative effect and hinder reader's comprehension of text
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Scoring Criteria: Communicative Effect – writing sample

Activity: Why would this writing (pp. 30-31) fail in terms of Communicative Effect?

Dear Editor

Violence at sporting events is very often situation. The most common sport that the spectatos use violence is football. I think this happend because football is the most popular and famous sport in the world. There are a lot of violence examples that I have heard and seen but one is the most violence. Iremember when I was going to football stadium, I saw hooligans from two opposites teams fighting in front of stadium. They were fighting for almost ten minutes without anyone do something, no police were there. After when I get home I heard from the TV that was one dead person and eleven injuted. This new make me sad.

As a result of this I'm writing you some actions that you could take to prevent future violence. The first thing is to use new technology to spy the stadium and the places near there. With this they can stop any violence immidiadly without late. New technology as cameras. One very important is to identify the hooligans and keep them out of stadium. That was my first actions that comming, in my mind.

Scoring Criteria: Communicative Effect – revised writing sample

Dear Editor,

Context

I read in your newspaper about the fight at Victory Stadium last night. It is not unusual. I have seen it many times and I want to say ways to stop it. [1]

Violence at sporting events is very often situation. The most common sport that the spectatos Use violence is football. I think this happend because football is the most popular and famous sport in the World. There are a lot of violence examples that I have heard and seen but one is the most violence. I remember...

Audience and Purpose

As a result of this I'm writing you some actions that the authorities [2] could take to prevent future violence. The first thing is to use new technology to spy the stadium and the places near there. With this they can stop any violence immidiadly without late. New technology as cameras. One very important is to identify the hooligans and keep them out of stadium. That was my first actions that comming, in my mind.

Purpose and Audience

Technology can stop the violence at sporting events. I hope the authorities will do something.[3]

Sincerely yours,
Kostas [4]

Scoring Criteria: Communicative Effect – summary of key features

Writing that passes for Communicative Effect:

- Makes clear intended reader
 - States purpose of writing
 - Summarizes essential message of writing
 - Uses appropriate register
 - Has formal opening and closing (in the case of a letter)
-

Scoring Criteria: Interconnection of Descriptors

Content & Development ↔ Communicative Effect

Scoring Criteria: Interconnection of Descriptors

- Lack of specificity (*Content and Development*) affects register (*Communicative Effect*)
 - Lack of clarity (*Content and Development*) weakens argument (*Communicative Effect*)
-

Scoring Criteria: Interconnection of Descriptors – writing sample

Activity: How does poor content and development influence the overall communicative effect of the following letter?

Dear editor

In today's world violence is around us very often. At the end or during a sporting event many times we have seen something like that.

Authorities can take action to prevent future violence by educating people and provide the benefits of racing. Also they should start meeting at schools or workplaces and using the media. In addition it's not good to use violence to stop fights but action before these happens.

There are some measures that the authorities can take to reduce violence but there are a lot others. Thank you for spending your time to reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Stavroula

Scoring Criteria: Interconnection of Descriptors – revised sample writing

Dear editor

Exemplification

In today's world violence is around us very often. At the end or during a sporting event many times we have seen something like that. For example, I recently was at a football match. The home team fans saw their team was losing. Some of them started throwing bottles and food onto the field. Some of them tried going onto the field. Things became violent. [1]

Elaboration

Authorities can take action to prevent future violence by educating people and provide the benefits of racing. *They can teach children in school how to behave at a match.* [2] Also they should start meeting at schools or workplaces and using the media *to advertise the dangers of violence at football matches.* [3] In addition it's not good to use violence to stop fights but action before these happens.

There are some measures that the authorities can take to reduce violence but there are a lot others. Thank you for spending your time to reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Stavroula

Pass or Fail?

Nowadays, there are large audiences in the entertainment events like theater productions, musical performances and specifically in sports events. However, sometimes the audiences become violent in case that the spectators cause problems at that events.

To start with the case that a number of spectators disagree with the changing of players at a sporting event. Sometimes during the game the fans go into stadium and fight with the football players and coach.

In the theater productions there are problems when the spectators don't like the actors or the way they act. In this case the spectators are screaming or throw things. As a result, the audiences take them away by force.

To sum up, the audiences become violent in the cases that problems with the spectators are big.

Essay Analysis

Fail

- Argument development:
 - inadequate
 - Organization of ideas:
 - basic
 - limited connection of ideas
 - Linguistic range and control:
 - accurate, but limited range of structures
-

Pass or Fail?

Violence has always been an issue in the life of human being. It is very difficult to explain at last why people become violent. But we can notice what if too many people are concentrated in sports events or in musical performances, the probability of a fight breaking out is bigger.

Many psychoanalysts suggest that violence is a problem of culture because the people living in the civilization must suppress their destructive urges. But all the controlled thinks come back if they find space to explode.

Sure this thesis is not real for all the people. There are many people who can suppress their instincts and they behave very well. But often there are other people who do not have a very good education and this is maybe the reason for their not human behavior.

I think that in order to reduce or prevent the violence it is necessary to have good education and other possibilities to express yourself freely.

Essay Analysis

Pass

- Argument development:
 - ✓ Adequate
 - concluding paragraph weak
 - Organization of ideas:
 - ✓ clear
 - ✓ adequate organization
 - Linguistic range and control:
 - ✓ complex sentences
 - errors do not adversely affect comprehension
 - ✓ Sense of audience:
 - adequate
-

Conclusion

- Familiarity with descriptors facilitates assigning Pass or Fail
 - Effect descriptors have on each other reinforces idea of writing as a complex process
 - Benchmarked writing samples allow calibration to determine Pass or Fail
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