

Scoring Guide

This score will reflect a judgment of the essay's quality as a whole, with a focus on rewarding students for what they do well. It is not necessary score a 9 to receive full points for the assignment, but students are encouraged and challenged to perform the best that they can.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features will enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 3.

9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for a score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their narrative, thorough in their development, or particularly impressive in their control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively explore a memory**, expressing and reflecting on the meaningfulness of that experience, **fulfilling all the listed requirements** (500-750 words, MLA Format). The memoir evokes a vivid experience for the audience using sensory detail, energy, and emotion. These memoirs **persuasively** encourage the audience that the memory depicted is insightful and valuable by **reflecting on the experience's meaning to the speaker**. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

7 Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide a more complete narrative, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

6 Competent

Essays earning a score of 6 **competently** explore a memory, expressing and reflecting on the meaningfulness of that experience, **fulfilling all the listed requirements** (500-750 words, MLA format). The memoir evokes an experience for the audience using sensory detail, energy, and emotion. These memoirs **sufficiently** encourage the audience that the memory depicted is insightful and valuable by **reflecting on the experience's meaning to the speaker**. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 Essays earning a score of 5 explore a memory, expressing and reflecting on the meaningfulness of that experience. The narrative may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** explore a memory. The memory used may be insufficient or less insightful. **The memoir may fail to fulfill all the listed requirements** (500-750 words, MLA format) **or may fail to reflect on the experience's meaning to the speaker**. The memoir may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas, but may be less consistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in exploring a memory and its meaning to the speaker. The essay may show less maturity in control of writing.

2 Redo & Remediate

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** explore a memory. These essays may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the assignment tangentially with an unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate narrative. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.

1 Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, weak in their control of language, or especially lacking in coherence and development.