

**NEVADA STATE WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION  
ANALYTIC SCORING GUIDE\***

## **CONVENTIONS**

- 5:** The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling, sentence structure, paragraphing) and uses them effectively to enhance readability. Errors tend to be so few and minor the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. Only light editing would be required to polish the text for publication.
- Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style.
  - Internal punctuation and external punctuation contain few, if any, errors and guide the reader through the text.
  - Spelling is almost always correct, even on more difficult words.
  - Sentence structures are varied with few, if any, run-ons or fragments.
  - Capitalization is correct.
- 3:** The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. The writer handles some conventions well, but noticeable errors still exist that may distract the reader. The paper would require moderate editing prior to publication.
- Problems with grammar and usage are not serious enough to distort meaning.
  - External punctuation is almost always correct; internal punctuation may be incorrect or missing.
  - Spelling is usually correct on common words and reasonably phonetic on more difficult words.
  - Sentences are generally structured correctly; run-ons and fragments, if present, do not impede meaning.
  - Capitalization is usually correct.
- 1:** Errors in spelling, punctuation, usage and grammar, capitalization, sentence structure and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. Extensive editing would be required to polish the text for publication. More than one of the following problems is likely to be evident:
- Errors in grammar and usage are very noticeable and interfere with meaning.
  - Punctuation is often missing or incorrect.
  - Spelling errors are frequent, even on common words.
  - Sentence structure is seriously flawed; run-ons and fragments may impede meaning.
  - Capitalization is incorrect or missing.

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