

Magoosh Essay Rubric for the GRE & GMAT

Score	Quality of Ideas	Organization	Writing Style	Grammar & Usage	Summary
6	Insightfully develops a position on a topic or argument with compelling, persuasive examples and reasons	A clear organizational structure with a logical progression, linking ideas to supporting points from start to finish, from paragraph to paragraph and sentence to sentence	A wide variety of sentence structures and lengths, showing a superior control of word choice with a clear, concise style	Shows a superior control of writing, with impeccable grammar, mechanics, and usage—yet may have a few minor, non-repeated errors	A 6 response is a precise, well-articulated analysis of the complexities of the issue or argument, and demonstrates mastery of the elements of effective writing.
5	Develops a position on a topic or argument with well-chosen examples and reasons	A well-organized structure with a progression of ideas, linking ideas to supporting points from start to finish	Variety in sentence structures, showing control of word choice with a clear style	Shows a control of language, with strong grammar, mechanics, and usage—yet may have a few minor errors	A 5 response is a well-developed analysis of the complexities of the issue and demonstrates a strong control of the elements of effective writing.
4	Develops a position on a topic or argument with relevant examples and reasons	Organized with some progression of ideas, linking ideas and supporting points with some consistency	Some, to little, variety in sentence structure, showing adequate control of word choice with an inconsistently clear style	Shows control of standard English but contains some flaws	A 4 response is a competent analysis of the issue and demonstrates adequate control of the elements of writing.
3	Develops a vague or limited position on a topic or argument with few examples or reasons of questionable importance	Poorly organized with unclear links between ideas and supporting points	A lack sentence variety, showing imprecise use of word choice with an inconsistent, wordy style	Shows some lack of control in grammar, mechanics and usage, containing occasional major flaws with more frequent minor flaws	A 3 response has some competence in its analysis of the issue and in its control of the elements of writing but is clearly flawed.
2	Ideas on a topic or argument are unclear or seriously limited	Disorganized and provides few, if any, relevant links between ideas and examples	Serious and frequent problems with word choice and sentence structure, showing a lack of style	Shows a lack of control in grammar, mechanics, and usage, containing numerous, repeated errors	A 2 response has serious weaknesses in analytical writing.
1	Provides little evidence of the ability to develop a position in response to a topic or argument	No organization or logic, containing irrelevant details and examples with little to no distinction between the two	Severe and persistent errors in word choice, language, and sentence structure, showing no real style	Shows a complete lack of control in grammar, mechanics, and usage, making the essay unreadable and incomprehensible	A 1 response has fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing skills.
0	Completely off topic, blank, or not written in English	Entire lack of structure, blank, or not written in English	Blank or not in English	Blank response, not written in English, or no regard for English grammar, mechanics and usage	A 0 response has a complete lack of analytical writing skills.