



## ***Conventions***

Conventions include grammar, usage, pronoun reference, consistency in number and person, and mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing). The same word misspelled multiple times is only counted as one error.

- 5 The writer demonstrates a strong command of grammar, usage, and mechanics.
  - Grammar and usage are generally correct and demonstrate complexity.
  - There are few, if any, errors in spelling, and the student successfully attempts to spell complex words.
  - There are few, if any, errors in punctuation.
- 4 The writer demonstrates a reasonably strong command of grammar, usage, and mechanics.
  - Grammar and usage are for the most part correct.
  - There are few, if any, errors in spelling.
  - There are few, if any, errors in punctuation.
- 3 The writer demonstrates a command of grammar, usage, and mechanics but some errors may be evident.
  - Errors in grammar and usage while evident are not widespread in proportion to the amount of writing.
  - Simple words are spelled correctly. Incorrect spelling does not disrupt the reading of the response.
  - There may be errors in mechanics, particularly in comma use.
- 2 Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics but some errors disrupt the reading of the response.
  - Errors in grammar and usage are numerous in proportion to the amount of writing and may create interruptions in reading the response.
  - Spelling errors may be prevalent and require some deciphering on the part of the audience.
  - Errors in mechanics may be evident.
  - The response may have insufficient writing to evaluate conventions
- 1 Numerous errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics create confusion.
  - Errors in grammar and usage are numerous in proportion to the amount of writing and create confusion for the audience.
  - Spelling errors may be prevalent and require deciphering on the part of the audience.
  - Errors in the basics of mechanics may be evident.
  - Awkward sentences create confusion and require deciphering on the part of the audience.
  - The response may have insufficient writing to evaluate conventions.