Generic AP Language & Composition Free-Response Scoring Rubric

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| 9 | 98 - 100 | A+  For essays that are well organized, demonstrate command of elements of composition, and display evidence of stylistic maturity. These essays explain with precision the effect of the passage on the reader and they convincingly analyze the specific rhetorical or stylistic means by which that effect is achieved. The 9 essay is distinguished by evidence of gracefulness or stylistic flair. |
| 9↓ | 96-97 | High A |
| 8↑ | 94-95 | A |
| 8 | 92-93 | High A- |
| 8↓ | 90-91 | A- |
| 7↑ | 89-90 | Low A-  For essays that explain with some accuracy the effect of the passage and include details which support that explanation, though they may analyze with less precision the means by which that effect is achieved. This score is awarded to essays that are somewhat less well written; they demonstrate control of language but may present occasional lapses in syntax, diction or organization. |
| 7 | 87-88 | High B+ |
| 7↓ | 86-87 | B+ |
| 6↑ | 85-86 | Low B+ |
| 6 | 83-85 | High B |
| 6↓ | 81-82 | B or B- |
| 5↑ | 79-80 | C+  For essays that are adequately written, though they do not demonstrate stylistic maturity or confident control over the elements of composition. These essays display an understanding of the passage, but they treat it only in generalities, inadequately explaining its effects or analyzing the techniques by which those effects are achieved. They may simply cite stylistic techniques or concentrate on inappropriate aspects of the passage, or show a lack of the facility of language needed to analyze the details they mention. Essay may present a pattern of misreadings. |
| 5 | 77-78 | C |
| 5↓ | 75-76 | Low C |
| 4 | 70-74 | C- |
| 3 | 67-69 | D+  For essays that are poorly written and show consistent errors in diction, spelling, or syntax; provide little explanation of the effects of the passage and no explicit analysis of the techniques by which that effect is achieved; may use the passage merely as a springboard for an essay on a general topic. These essays may present a fundamental misreading of the passage. |
| 2 | 63-66 | D |
| 1 | 60-62 | D- |