

Glossary (Continued)

Coherence	Definition
Partial	Occurring in a way that indicates a complete understanding of organizational components in writing (such as the use of an introduction; the development of a topic; the use of transitions; making a conclusion) and an ability to incorporate most of these
Sufficient	Occurring in a way that indicates a complete understanding of organizational components in writing (such as the use of an introduction; the development of a topic; the use of transitions; making a conclusion) and an ability to incorporate nearly all of these
Degree	Definition
Few/A few	1–2 in a student response
Some	Evidence and/or details are occasionally present in the response OR the response has support throughout but is brief
Many	Evidence and/or details are present in the majority of the response (with occasional lapses in detail) OR evidence and/or details are found throughout the response, but they lack variety and precision
Varied	Evidence and/or details are consistently present throughout the response in precise and diverse ways
Mechanics	Definition
Totally obscures meaning	Frequency of errors renders the response virtually incomprehensible; only one or two words may be recognizable
Often obscures, but meaning is evident	Frequency of errors interferes with comprehension of the response, but minimal control of conventions is evident (e.g., a subject and a verb; an adjective and a noun)
Occasionally obscures meaning	Errors are evident throughout the response, but the general meaning of the response is clear
Rarely obscures meaning	Few errors are evident throughout the response, and those errors do not interfere with the meaning of the response
Minimal or no errors that obscure meaning	An occasional error that does not interfere with the meaning of the response; includes errors that are also made by native speakers