Essay Scoring Guide for SJCC English Department

SUPERIOR (6): Demonstrates superior use of writing mechanics and presentation of content. It will:
* Show a command of language and style
* Demonstrate a clear sense of essay form, paragraphing and transitions
* Support a thesis with specific and convincing evidence
* Be nearly free of error

ABOVE AVERAGE (5): Demonstrates clear competence in writing mechanics and presentation of content. It will:
* Demonstrate a sense of essay form, paragraphing and transitions
* Be generally well-organized and well-developed although it offers fewer details or examples than an “6” paper
* Offer some explanation or illustrations of key ideas
* Demonstrate sentence control in grammar and punctuation with few errors
* Display fundamental mastery of language

AVERAGE (4): Demonstrates general competence in writing mechanics and the presentation of content. It will:
* Provide an adequate thesis, organization and development with some appropriate examples
* Demonstrate a basic knowledge of sentence structure without an overwhelming number of errors
* Address the topic adequately, although perhaps not completely
* Demonstrate adequate mastery of the language

****STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE (4) OR ABOVE ARE READY FOR ENGLISH 1A****

APPROACHING COMPETENCE (3): Is flawed in writing mechanics and/or the presentation of content. It will:
* Respond to the topic, but in generalizations, not providing adequate or appropriate detail and specifics, neglecting part of the writing task
* Be underdeveloped or disorganized
* Display patterns or an accumulation of major errors in usage, punctuation or grammar
* Display limited or inappropriate word choice.

LIMITED COMPETENCE (2-1): Lacks writing competence. It will:
* Fail to respond to the question, or do so in a way that is hard to understand
* Offer almost no detail or relevant specifics
* Contain serious and frequent errors in usage and sentence structure
* Be difficult to understand