

Scoring the ENSL B70 Final Paragraphs

6. A high Pass:
- provides a clear, direct response to the assigned topic
 - is well-organized
 - is virtually free of sentence-level errors
 - demonstrates above-average control of mechanics and diction
5. A Pass:
- provides a clear response to the assigned topic
 - is well-organized, but may show less sophistication in paragraph structure and development
 - is mostly free of sentence-level errors
 - demonstrates average control of mechanics and diction
4. A Low Pass:
- responds to the assigned topic
 - is reasonably organized (it may be inconsistent, but the writer retains control of the paragraph's organization) with sufficient paragraph structure and development
 - is relatively free of sentence-level errors
 - demonstrates acceptable control of mechanics and diction

a score of 4, 5, or 6 indicates sufficient competency for ENSL B60

a score of 3, 2, or 1 indicates insufficient competency for ENSL B60

3. A High Fail:
Error Code:
- B • offers a limited and/or repetitive response to the assigned topic
 - C • often is disorganized, neglecting transitions and development
 - D • contains a variety of sentence level problems, but these do not interfere with the communication of ideas
 - D, E • sometimes exhibits confused and/or awkward mechanics and diction
2. A Fail:
Error Code:
- B • offers a confused response to the assigned topic
 - C • is disorganized, with weak paragraph structure and no clear pattern of development
 - D • contains repeated and consistent sentence structure errors that interfere with the communication of ideas
 - D,E • often exhibits confused and/or awkward mechanics and diction
1. A Low Fail: (note: error codes for a "2" and "1" are identical – a "1" paragraph has the same errors as a "2", but to a greater degree in severity and/or frequency.)
Error Code:
- B • offers a very confused or off-topic response to the assigned topic
 - C • is disorganized, or lacks paragraph structure entirely
 - D • contains many repeated and consistent sentence structure errors that interfere with the communication of ideas
 - D,E • usually exhibits confused and/or awkward mechanics and diction

NOTE: A paragraph that does not meet the assigned minimum length of 125 words would receive the Error Code of "A". However, paragraphs that are too short may still receive a passing mark. (See below)

Elements to consider and mark:

- A. **Length** – Each paragraph will be a minimum of 125 words. However, a paragraph which does not meet this minimum may be acceptable if the paragraph is free of gross errors and the organization and content reflect the development implied in the topic.
- B. **Content** – Each paragraph will respond to the assigned topic, contain a clear topic sentence, and develop the topic using examples and support.
- C. **Organization** – Each paragraph will be organized around a topic sentence, use transitions, be coherent, and contain a clear conclusion.
- D. **Sentences** – Each paragraph will contain a variety of sentence patterns and avoid primer prose. Additionally, the paragraph will avoid awkward or ambiguous constructions (diction); wordiness and repetition; fragments, comma splices, and run-ons; and shifts in mood, number, tense, and person.
- E. **Usage and Mechanics** – Each paragraph will display an understanding of standard English usage; be free of errors which interfere with meaning; and have few errors in verb forms, agreement, punctuation, apostrophe, reference, spelling, or capitalization.

BORDERLINE: a borderline paragraph will be those scored as a "3" by one reader and as a "4" by the other.

THIRD READS: Any paragraph with a 2-point discrepancy (for example, a "3" and a "5", or a "2" and a "4"), will be sent to a third reader. The third score will determine whether the paragraph passes or fails. Third reads *only* apply when the first two scores are on opposite sides of the "pass line." Any paragraph that has three readers can never be a borderline.

The reader will designate on a scoring sheet the reason for the failing (or borderline) paragraph according to the categories listed above:

- A. **Length**
- B. **Content**
- C. **Organization**
- D. **Sentences**
- E. **Usage and Mechanics**

Scoring: Combination of scores on two paragraphs:

16-20 = Pass (four 4s, or above)

14-15 = Borderline (three 4s and a 3, two 4s and two 3s)

13-below = Fail (three 3s and a 4, four 3s and below)

Student Learning Outcomes for ENSL B70 (Grammar and Composition)

Upon completion of ESL 70, students will be able to:

- Respond to a given topic to write a well-organized paragraph using a topic sentence, relevant details, and a concluding sentence.
- Write grammatically accurate simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- Use verb forms and past and present verb tenses correctly
- Use cohesive devices and sequence ideas logically in a paragraph.