

APPENDIX I

ELA COMPOSITION SCORER ANNOTATION CODES

MCAS WRITING SCORING GUIDE (COMPOSITION GRADE 10)

Topic Development

1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little topic/idea development, organization, and/or details Little or no awareness of audience and/or task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited or weak topic/idea development, organization, and/or details Limited awareness of audience and/or task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rudimentary topic/idea development and/or organization Basic supporting details Simplistic language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate topic/idea development and organization Adequate, relevant details Some variety in language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full topic/idea development Logical organization Strong details Appropriate use of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich topic/idea development Careful and/or subtle organization Effective/rich use of language

Analytic Annotations

		Commendations		Needs	
Topic Development	The overall effect of the paper	TW* TW* TX TY* TZ	Central idea is clear and complete Central idea is clear and complete Topic development is insightful Topic development is original Composition contains sophisticated commentary and analysis	TJ* TK* TL TM*	Central idea is missing Central idea lacks focus Topic needs more development Development is repetitious
Organization	The degree to which the response is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused clearly and logically ordered clarified by paragraphs 	* OX* OY OZ*	Effective organization of ideas Use of transitions contributes to a consistent focus Major ideas receive the most emphasis Conclusion is effective	OJ* OK* OL*	Ideas need to be better organized Needs transitions between ideas to maintain consistent focus Conclusion is missing or needs more development
Details	The degree to which the response includes examples that develop the main points	* DW DX*	Details are carefully chosen to support the central idea Details are well developed	DJ DK* DL* DM	Composition needs more relevant detail Details need to support major ideas Details need more development Composition relies too much on plot summary
Language/ Style	The degree to which manipulation of language, including vocabulary, word choice, word combination, and sentence variety, is effectively achieved	LW* LX* LY	Word choice is effective Sentence variety adds richness Language creates a distinctive voice, tone, or style	LJ* LK*	Needs more variety in word choice Needs more sentence variety

Standard English Conventions

1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors seriously interfere with communication AND Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or Too many errors relative to the length of the essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors do not interfere with communication and/or Few errors relative to the length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics (length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of standard English conventions)

Analytic Annotations

		Commendations		Needs	
Structure	The degree to which the response includes sentences that are correct in structure	SW* SX	Sentence structure is mostly correct Composition demonstrates correctness and control	SJ* SK	Needs fewer errors in sentence structure Composition not long enough to demonstrate correctness and control
Grammar and Usage	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of standard grammatical rules of English word usage and vocabulary 	GW* GX*	Writing demonstrates control of grammar Writing demonstrates control of word usage	GJ* GK*	Writing does not demonstrate control of grammar Words are often used incorrectly
Mechanics	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling capitalization punctuation 	MW* MX*	Punctuation is used correctly in a variety of ways Challenging words are spelled correctly	MJ* MK* ML	Punctuation is too frequently incorrect or missing Words are frequently misspelled Composition would benefit from more careful proofreading