Ohio State Test Writing Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How each extended response is scored

Domain	Points
Purpose, Focus and Organization	0–4
Evidence and Elaboration	0–4
Conventions	0–2
Total	**10**

Where the points are

8 of the 10 points are for your ideas, structure and evidence. Only 2 are for conventions.

A clean essay with no evidence scores poorly. Explain your evidence.

Grades 3–5 write informative/explanatory or opinion responses; grades 6 through ELA II write informative/explanatory or argument responses. In grades 6 and up you write two extended responses, one in each part of the test.

Purpose, Focus and Organization (0–4)

- [ ] My thesis answers the prompt, and I keep it all the way through.
- [ ] My ideas follow a logical order, with transitions between them.
- [ ] I have an introduction and a conclusion.
- [ ] **Argument, grade 7 and up:** I addressed an opposing claim.

Evidence and Elaboration (0–4)

- [ ] I used relevant evidence from the sources.
- [ ] It's clear how each piece of evidence connects to my point.
- [ ] I elaborated with definitions, quotations or examples.
- [ ] My vocabulary is precise.

Conventions (0–2)

- [ ] I checked usage and sentence formation.
- [ ] I checked punctuation, capitalization and spelling.

My plan

My thesis

_____

_____

Best evidence + why it matters

_____

_____

Ohio plans a revised writing rubric starting in spring 2028; this checklist follows the current rubric. Student summary based on the Ohio's State Tests writing rubrics; not an official Ohio Department of Education and Workforce document.