Writing Mechanics Rubric
(Questions 30 and 34)

3 points
The writing demonstrates control of the conventions of written English. There are few, if any, errors and none that interfere with comprehension. Grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing are essentially correct. Any misspellings are minor or repetitive; they occur primarily when a student takes risks with sophisticated vocabulary.

2 points
The writing demonstrates partial control of the conventions of written English. It contains errors that may interfere somewhat with readability but do not substantially interfere with comprehension. There may be some errors of grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling.

1 point
The writing demonstrates minimal control of the conventions of written English. There may be many errors of grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling that interfere with readability and comprehension.

0 points
The writing demonstrates a lack of control of the conventions of written English. The errors make the writing incomprehensible.
## Writing Mechanics Rubric Chart
(Questions 30 and 34)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>3 Points</th>
<th>2 Points</th>
<th>1 Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Conventions:</em> The extent to which the response exhibits conventional spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization, grammar, and usage.</td>
<td>The writing demonstrates control of the conventions of written English. There are few, if any, errors and none that interfere with comprehension. Grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing are essentially correct. Any misspellings are minor or repetitive; they occur primarily when a student takes risks with sophisticated vocabulary.</td>
<td>The writing demonstrates partial control of the conventions of written English. It contains errors that may interfere somewhat with readability but do not substantially interfere with comprehension. There may be some errors of grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling.</td>
<td>The writing demonstrates minimal control of the conventions of written English. There may be many errors of grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling that interfere with readability and comprehension.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCORE POINT 0** = The writing demonstrates a lack of control of the conventions of written English. The errors make the writing incomprehensible.
English Language Arts Grade 8 Scoring Considerations

Reading/Multiple Choice (Questions 1–26)
- In the multiple-choice segment of the test, a student receives credit only for those questions that are answered correctly. An answer left blank receives no credit. There is no additional penalty for not answering questions.

*For the Listening/Writing and Reading/Writing sections of the test, first apply the English Language Arts scoring rubric. Then apply the following rules as appropriate. The lowest score a student can receive is zero.*

Listening/Writing (Questions 27, 28, 29, 30)
- Deduct one point if any two short-response questions (27 and 28 or 28 and 29 or 27 and 29) are not answered.
- If none of the short-response questions (27, 28, 29) is answered, the total maximum Listening/Writing score possible is 2.
- If Question 30 (the extended-response question) is not answered or is not responsive to the task, the total maximum Listening/Writing score possible is 2.
- If the student answers only one question, and that question is not the extended-response question, the score is zero.
- If none of the questions is answered, condition code A (blank) should be applied.

Reading/Writing (Questions 31, 32, 33, 34)
- Deduct one point if any two short-response questions (31 and 32 or 32 and 33 or 31 and 33) are not answered.
- If none of the short-response questions (31, 32, 33) is answered, the total maximum Reading/Writing score possible is 2.
- If Question 34 (the extended-response question) is not answered or is not responsive to the task, the total maximum Reading/Writing score possible is 2.
- If the student answers only one question, and that question is not the extended-response question, the score is zero.
- If none of the questions is answered, condition code A (blank) should be applied.

*For Writing Mechanics score, check for sufficient response before applying the appropriate rubric.*

Writing Mechanics (Questions 30 and 34)
- Students must answer both extended-response questions for the responses to be scored for Writing Mechanics. If the student answers only one extended-response question, the score is zero.
New York State Testing Program
English Language Arts Condition Codes

Score of Zero
Responses to the Listening/ Writing cluster, Reading/ Writing cluster, or Writing Mechanics cluster are scored a zero if the entire response:

- is illegible or may be only scribbling, or
- consists of an indication of the student’s refusal to respond, or
- is written in a language other than English, or
- corresponds to a description of a score of zero in the English Language Arts Scoring Considerations, or
- corresponds to a description of a score of zero in the English Language Arts scoring rubrics.

Condition Code A
Condition Code A is applied to the Listening/ Writing cluster, Reading/ Writing cluster, or the Writing Mechanics cluster when a student who is present for a test session leaves all of the questions in that section blank.
## Annotation Key

### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cap</td>
<td>faulty capitalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lc</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lu</td>
<td>language usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ow</td>
<td>omitted word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>faulty punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r-o</td>
<td>run-on sentence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sf</td>
<td>sentence fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sp</td>
<td>error in spelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The *Mona Lisa* has been kept in several different places since da Vinci painted it. Write an essay in which you contrast these places. Describe the conditions under which the painting was kept. Use details from the article to support your answer.

In your answer, be sure to
- describe the different places where the *Mona Lisa* was kept
- tell how these places were different from one another
- describe the conditions under which the painting was kept
- use details from the article to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

After 3 years of hard work and determination, Leonardo da Vinci finally finished painting the *Mona Lisa*. It was well worth it. Da Vinci kept the painting for himself, but before he died he sold it to King Francis for $105,000. The painting was then put in the Louvre, a famous art museum in Paris, France. The *Mona Lisa* stayed there until a greedy worker stole the painting with the intention of returning it to Italy. They never made it, though. The painting was hidden for 2 years. He then tried to sell it to an
An art dealer but was caught. The Mona Lisa is now safe back where she started, in the Louvre behind strong bars and bulletproof glass.

The Mona Lisa traveled far and wide but is now back home. She wasn't very safe while she was stolen, but as soon as she was back in the Louvre, every effort was taken to make sure that's where she stayed.
Ada Byron Lovelace and John Wesley Powell had very different training for their careers in science. Write an essay in which you explain how their professional preparation differed and how both approaches led to successful careers. Use details from both articles to support your answer.

In your response, be sure to
- describe the training each person received
- explain how each approach led to successful careers
- use details from both articles to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Imagine being a mathematician with a whole society frowning down on you, or imagine, rock climbing with only one arm. These obstacles didn't stop Ada Byron Lovelace or John Wesley Powell.

Ada became very ill and was bedridden for almost 3 years. Her mother hired tutors for her. Ada's love for math and science grew with her while she was sick. When she became well, she became a mathematician. Later, she invented a computer program.

John Wesley Powell lost his arm in the Civil War, but that didn't stop him either. John loved
Science and exploring. He became a pioneer scientist and explored the Grand Canyon with only one arm! He explored the Colorado River and everything above it. His training came from being a soldier during the Civil War. John also explored the Rocky Mountains.

As you can see, Ada and John both received different training and many obstacles. After overcoming many obstacles, Ada and John both found careers in science that they really enjoyed.

Cluster Score = 3

Taken as a whole, the responses demonstrate control of the conventions of written English. The first paper has a few punctuation errors, and the second paper has a minor spelling error. None of the errors interfere with readability.
The *Mona Lisa* has been kept in several different places since da Vinci painted it. Write an essay in which you contrast these places. Describe the conditions under which the painting was kept. Use details from the article to support your answer.

In your answer, be sure to
- describe the different places where the *Mona Lisa* was kept
- tell how these places were different from one another
- describe the conditions under which the painting was kept
- use details from the article to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The *Mona Lisa* has been kept in many different places since da Vinci painted it. All of them have very different conditions in where the painting was stored.

The first place the *Mona Lisa* was kept was with da Vinci himself. He took it around wherever he went. It was always by his side.

On Aug. 21, 1911, the *Mona Lisa* was stolen. Later people found out that it was kept in the bottom of a box for two years. Now, the *Mona Lisa* is kept in a sealed vault with bullet-proof glass so no one can harm it.

These places are very different conditions from one another. Some of them are safe and others...
are not. Something bad could have happened
to the Mona Lisa in some of these places. It
could have been destroyed.

When the painting was with da Vinci who
knows what happened. It could have been out
in the rain or under a box that could damage it.
When it was stolen it was in a box for two years.
It could have been broken. But now it is safe
and sound in a air, spare vault with bullet proof
glass so nobody could damage it.
The Mona Lisa has been around for centuries.

Many things could of happened to it but it
stayed safe. It is known all around the
world. Some theories have been made about
the history on who the Mona Lisa really is.
But we will never be able to know for sure.
Ada Byron Lovelace and John Wesley Powell had very different training for their careers in science. Write an essay in which you explain how their professional preparation differed and how both approaches led to successful careers. Use details from both articles to support your answer.

In your response, be sure to
• describe the training each person received
• explain how each approach led to successful careers
• use details from both articles to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The life of Ada Byron Lovelace and John Wesley Powell had many differences and similarities.

Each person had led a successful career. Yet each person had gotten training.

Ada Byron Lovelace was the first computer programmer. Ever since she was young, Ada loved figuring out what made machines work. When she was in her teenage years, she was often ill and bedridden. Her mother hired mathematicians and scientists to tutor her while bedridden. Thus, she fell in love with math. Soon later, with the influence of Charles Babbage, Ada made the Bernoulli numbers.
John Wesley Powell was a daredevil. Even with one arm, he did things no one ever imagined. His exploration of the Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain region was a wild ride. Risking his life, he gathered many information. However, that experience also trained him. Powell's sense of observing, measuring and thinking before taking action heightened.

[Though both Ron Brown and John Wesley Powell both had love for science, however, their experiences and training were rather different.]

*The two people led amazing careers, and training. They shall forever be known throughout our lives.*

*awkward sentence*

Cluster Score = 2
In both papers, the errors in spelling, punctuation, language usage, and sentence construction do not substantially interfere with comprehension; therefore, taken as a whole, these responses show a partial control of the conventions of written English.
The *Mona Lisa* has been kept in several different places since da Vinci painted it. Write an essay in which you contrast these places. Describe the conditions under which the painting was kept. Use details from the article to support your answer.

In your answer, be sure to
- describe the different places where the *Mona Lisa* was kept
- tell how these places were different from one another
- describe the conditions under which the painting was kept
- use details from the article to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

It was kept under good conditions until someone stole it and was caught. But now it has tight security and is behind bars and bullet proof glass and never will be touched again by human hands or on the bottom of a trunk. For two years and under a smock.

→ Note: There are multiple lc (lowercase) errors on this page.
Ada Byron Lovelace and John Wesley Powell had very different training for their careers in science. Write an essay in which you explain how their professional preparation differed and how both approaches led to successful careers. Use details from both articles to support your answer.

In your response, be sure to
- describe the training each person received
- explain how each approach led to successful careers
- use details from both articles to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

The training for each person was different. Ada Byron Lovelace was into mathematics and science. John Wesley Powell was a explorer. They both had achieved something in their life. Ada Byron Lovelace wrote the first computer program.

Cluster Score = 1
Both papers contain spelling, capitalization, and language usage errors, and the first paper is composed of one long run-on sentence. Taken as a whole, the responses demonstrate minimal control of the conventions of written English.