

**MSU-CELP ESSAY EVALUATION RUBRIC (summary descriptors)**

<b>CELP Rating Scale</b>	<b>Linguistic Competency Grammatical Accuracy</b>	<b>Linguistic Competency Range of Vocabulary</b>	<b>Development and Task Completion</b>	<b>Genre Appropriateness and Writing Conventions</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Characteristics of “Honors Pass”</b>	Meets all C2 requirements for this category, plus exhibits exceptional sophistication in the precision and connection (flow) of a wide range of common and less-common grammatical structures	Meets all C2 requirements for this category, plus accomplishes exceptional clarity through selection of lexical items with precise meaning and connotations perfectly suited to points being made	Meets all C2 requirements for this category, plus achieves an exceptionally well-balanced, original and complete presentation of a complex argument in a highly-sophisticated manner that flows effortlessly	Meets all C2 requirements for this category, plus employs a highly impressive “design” in structure and use of conventions that facilitates the clarification of all of the subtleties of the argumentation in the essay
<b>4</b> <b>Characteristics of “Clear Pass”</b>	Control of a variety of common and advanced structures is very effective overall and sophisticated in at least some parts of the essay	Control of a variety of common and less-common lexical items effectively clarifies main points due to both basic meanings of words and expressions, and to some extent their connotations	Response is clear and complete at all levels (main points and support) and exhibits originality and/or sophistication in at least some aspects of the essay	Displays strong sense of audience and employs a structure that makes it easy for the reader to comprehend the key points and support of the complex argument
<b>3</b> <b>Characteristics of “Marginal Pass”</b>  (C2 “floor”)	Control of common and some advanced structures is used adequately to present a smoothly flowing and precise argument covering the basic components of a complex issue	Control of common and some less-common vocabulary and expressions is used with adequate precision to make key points easy for the reader to grasp	Response to prompt is clear in terms of viewpoint, and it is supported by relevant reasons and arguments, which in turn are elaborated with examples and explanations that further clarify the main points	Displays appropriate sense of audience in use of writing conventions and employs a structure that makes it easy for the reader to comprehend the key points of the argument
<b>2</b> <b>Characteristics of “Narrow Fail”</b>  (satisfies only some C2 criteria)	Control of a variety of common structures is used with inconsistent effectiveness in response to the C2 task	Control of a variety of common vocabulary is used with inconsistent or inadequate precision in response to the C2 task	Response to prompt is clear in terms of viewpoint, but it is incompletely supported due to inadequate elaboration and explanation	Only a partial sense of audience in use of conventions; structure minimally helpful in clarifying the key points
<b>1</b> <b>Characteristics of “Fail”</b>	Only a small number of elementary structures are used	Basic vocabulary and expressions are used with little precision	Minimal response – point of view expressed but no support	Little or no audience awareness; difficult or impossible to identify any key points
<b>0</b>	—Too little to evaluate—			

\*Note 1: “C2 task” in this grid is defined with reference to the writing prompt to which the examinee has responded. This prompt requires the writer to present a complex case with a logical structure that is easy to follow.