

**Portland State University  
University Studies  
Writing Rubric**

**SCORE OF 6:**

- The student portfolio demonstrates the ability to communicate clearly for a variety of purposes and diverse audiences.
- The portfolio shows the mark of the writer's own labor, critical judgment, and rhetorical shaping.
- It is marked by lucid and orderly thinking, substantial depth, fullness and complexity of thought.
- It articulates metacognition on the writer's part: analysis of learning strategies, revision techniques and improvement in writing skills.
- It evidences control of diction, syntactic variety, and usage.

**SCORE OF 5:**

- The student portfolio reveals the ability to communicate for a variety of purposes and diverse audiences.
- The portfolio satisfactorily shows the mark of the writer's own labor, critical judgment, and rhetorical shaping.
- The main ideas are well supported with a fair degree of specificity.
- Organization reveals clarity of thought and paragraphs are coherent units.
- The writing is largely free of errors in mechanics, usage and sentence structure.

**SCORE OF 4:**

- The portfolio does come to terms with the basic tasks of the assignments, but overall it executes the assignments less completely or less systematically than a 6 or 5 portfolio.
- There is no serious weakness in organization. Though there may be some disjointedness and lack of focus, the reader can move with relative ease through the discourse.
- Generalizations are usually supported though some detail may be lacking or irrelevant.
- The portfolio contains some errors in sentence structure and mechanics but, not to the point of distracting the reader from the content.

**SCORE OF 3:**

- The student portfolio shows difficulty in managing the tasks of the assignment.
- There is likely to be either a weakness in analytical thinking or lack of development of key ideas.
- The portfolio marginally demonstrates the ability to communicate for a variety of purposes.
- Errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics do interfere with readability.
- Overall the portfolio shows some metacognition of the student's part, but there is lack of clarity and depth about revising and the writing process.

**SCORE OF 2:**

- The portfolio does not come to terms with the assignment.
- There is little development of ideas, and the reader finds it difficult to follow from one point to the next.
- Writing tasks may be ignored or badly mishandled.
- There may be serious errors in reasoning.
- There may be serious and frequent errors in sentence structure, usage, and mechanics.
- Overall, the portfolio reveals an inability to communicate successfully.

**SCORE OF 1:**

- The portfolio reveals a combination of rhetorical problems from conceptual confusion, disorganization, and a basic inability to handle language.