MAPP ESSAY SCORE DESCRIPTORS

Score of 1

* provides little or no evidence of the ability to understand the issue or present a position on the issue
* provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response to the issue
* has persistent problems with vocabulary and/or sentence structure
* contains pervasive errors in grammar, mechanics, and sentence structure that result in incoherence

Score of 2

* is unclear in presenting a position on the issues
* is disorganized and undeveloped
* relies on unsupported generalizations
* provides few, if any, relevant reasons or examples
* has serious problems with vocabulary and/ or sentence structure
* contains frequent errors in grammar, mechanics, and sentence structure that interfere with meaning

Score of 3

* is vague or limited in presenting a position on the issue
* makes poorly-supported generalizations and/or fails to provide sufficient reasons and examples to support its position
* is poorly focused and/or organized, lacking connections between ideas
* has problems in the use of vocabulary and sentence variety that interfere with clarity
* contains errors in grammar, usage, or sentence structure that can interfere with meaning

Score of 4

* presents a reasonably clear position on the issue
* develops ideas with reasons and examples
* is adequately focused and organized
* expresses ideas with reasonable clarity
* generally demonstrates control of grammar, mechanics, or sentence structure, but may have some errors

Score of 5

* presents a clear and developed position on the issue
* demonstrates some understanding of the complexities of the issue
* develops ideas with appropriate reasons and examples
* is focused and well organized, connecting ideas appropriately
* expresses ideas clearly, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety
* demonstrates control of grammar, mechanics, and sentence structure

Score of 6

* presents a thoughtful and well-developed position on the issue
* explores the complexities of the issue
* develops the position with apt reasons and/or well-chosen examples
* is well focused and well organized uses effective vocabulary and sentence variety
* demonstrates strong control of grammar, mechanics, and sentence structure