2014 Enhanced Scoring System
Writing Samples and Commentary

Beginning in March 2014, the ECCE writing section will be scored analytically. This means that an ECCE essay or letter will be awarded a numeric score derived from the scores assigned to each of the four scoring criteria within the ECCE Writing Rating Scale. The complete writing scale can be found at: www.cambridgemichigan.org/EnhancedResults.

The scoring criteria and the descriptions at each point on the ECCE Writing Rating Scale are unchanged. The only difference will be that raters will assign scores for each of the four scoring criteria. These will contribute to the final score awarded to the ECCE writing letter or essay.

On the following pages are two writing prompts and eight writing samples and commentary. The commentary for each writing sample provides the reasons for why a particular score was awarded. The samples reflect the forthcoming scoring changes in 2014 for the ECCE writing section.

If you have any questions or comments, please email us:
info@cambridgemichigan.org
Writing Prompts
The two writing prompts on which the samples were written are below. Please refer back to these prompts when reviewing the samples.

Prompt 1

Delivery Bike Causes Accident
A serious accident occurred yesterday when a pizza delivery driver on a motorbike drove onto the sidewalk in a busy shopping area. Two pedestrians were badly injured. The driver said he was hurrying to make a delivery as quickly as possible. Many citizens now complain about public safety on sidewalks because of accidents like this. They claim the police are not doing enough to protect people walking on sidewalks from dangerous drivers.

Task 1: Letter
Write a letter to the chief of police explaining what could be done to protect people walking on sidewalks from unsafe drivers. Begin your letter, “Dear Chief of Police.”

Task 2: Essay
Should there be special rules about where motorbikes can and cannot be driven? Should motorbikes have to obey the same rules as cars do? Explain, giving specific reasons to support your opinion.

Prompt 2

Park Crowds Cause Problems
Over the past few years, the number of visitors to Marine National Park has grown from 250,000 per year to 780,000. This has caused problems with pollution on the beach and in the water. Roads are becoming crowded, especially in the summer. Some people want to limit the number of visitors who can enter the park. Others say the large number of visitors is good for the local economy.

Task 1: Letter
The director of Marine National Park, Dr. Robert Smith, is deciding what to do about the large number of park visitors. Do you think that the number of visitors should be limited? Explain your opinion. Begin your letter, “Dear Dr. Smith.”

Task 2: Essay
Should tourist sites be protected from very large numbers of visitors? Or should tourist sites be used to benefit the local community as much as possible? Explain your views. Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.
Dear Chief of Police,

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of our neighborhood where the accident between the driver of the motorbike and the two pedestrians occurred yesterday. That was a very serious incident, which caused a lot of trouble to all of us, since it happened during Christmas holidays and two citizens of us were badly injured. Our community authorizes me to write this letter to you in order to find the most suitable way to protect people walking on sidewalks.

First of all, the Police Department and you personally as chief, must convince the Local Authority to put barriers all along the sidewalks. This measure may prevent all types of drivers (and not only motorcycle drivers) from driving onto the sidewalks, causing a lot of inconvenience to the pedestrians. Secondly, it would be great if you can put police guards all along the sidewalks. If it is not possible, give us the right to form groups of citizens standing there the rush hours. The whole issue is not only to make a delivery as quickly as possible, but also to have as citizens the right to walk on the sidewalks safely with our children.

In the end, as a Police Department, you must be more strict with all who drive onto the sidewalks by imposing more strict punishment.

I am looking forward to seeing your measures and as a member of the Local Community I wish you the very best.

Yours Sincerely,
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 1

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**Content and Development: 5**
The argument is richly developed and well supported. The introductory paragraph states the reason for writing the letter and adds additional details to explain why the writer is passionate enough to write the letter. In the second paragraph, the writer offers two viable solutions to make the citizens safer on the sidewalks—putting barriers along the sidewalk, as well as placing police guards there. The writer supports ideas with details and explanations of why measures would be successful.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 5**
Simple connectors such as, “First of all,” “Secondly,” and “In the end” are used effectively to smoothly transition between ideas. Suggestions for the police chief are arranged appropriately within the text. In addition to using connectors, the writer uses other devices to maintain the flow of the letter, including conditionals and hedging.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 5**
The writer successfully executes complex structures and accurately uses a broad range of vocabulary (i.e., incident, authorizes, suitable, convince, prevent, imposing, punishment). Many sentences are error free. The few, minor inaccuracies (such as the phrase “citizens of us” and the misspelling of “inconvenience”) do not impede comprehension.

**Communicative Effect: 5**
The writer uses the appropriate register, understands the task, and establishes a solid argument with supporting details. After offering one practical solution, the writer actively engages with the police chief—the intended recipient—to negotiate a plan to protect the community: “If it is not possible, give us the right to form groups of citizens standing there the rush hours.” The letter writer’s willingness to compromise aids in effectively communicating ideas to the letter recipient. The writer further engages with the chief by implying that he or she is awaiting action: “I am looking forward to seeing your measures . . .”
Since some years ago tourism has been increasing a lot and it’s damaging the tourist sites that provides a lot of economical help so we have to start thinking about the consequences that it will have. I feel that we have to protect this areas because if we don’t do so in the future our country and other countries are going to be very polluted.

We know that tourism has been helping a lot to our economy but we are using it badly. In the future if we continue increasing the pollution we are not going to have any tourist place. All the tourist sites are going to be damaged; therefore, we are going to lose the economical help that we had.

Also it’s not going to affect only to our economy because it will damage our health too. For example if we live in a polluted country we are going to get sick faster than if we live in a clean country. Besides we are going to have problems with the water and so on.

The tourist sites that are contaminated are going to damage the agriculture. And it’s going to affect more to our economy. Also if we don’t have a good agriculture people are not going to have something healthy to eat.
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 2

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**Content and Development: 4**
The essay fully develops an argument with an appropriate level of detail. The writer gives a clear thesis in the opening paragraph and then supports the position consistently with several supporting examples. The essay lacks a concluding paragraph but otherwise, the argument is clearly and fully developed.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 3**
The essay is clearly paragraphed and the organizational pattern is easy for the reader to follow. Only a few connectors such as “Besides” and “therefore” are used to link ideas together. Although this sample does not use many connectors, the reader can generally follow the arrangement of ideas logically. For example, in the third paragraph, the writer attempts a not only clause (“it’s not going to affect only . . .”) to link the ideas of the previous paragraph to those in the next one.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 4**
The writer uses a good range of grammar and vocabulary mostly accurately. The opening sentence is rather long and difficult to process for meaning. However, many complex sentences are present and are largely well controlled. There is a sentence fragment in the last paragraph though (“And it’s going to affect more to our economy”). Word choice is varied and mostly precise, and only occasional errors are present, such as the use of “affect to our economy” (“rather than affect our economy”).

**Communicative Effect: 4**
An appropriate register is used for this essay, and the writer shows awareness of the purpose for writing. The first paragraph establishes the context nicely, setting up the main content that is discussed later in the response. The layout of the paragraphs is suitable for the fulfillment of the essay task.
Dear Chief of Police,

I've read the article about a serious accident. I found it extremely terrible that's why I decided to write to you in order to express my point of view.

According to the article, when a pizza delivery worker on a motorbike drove onto the sidewalk, two pedestrians were badly injured. It's very unsafe and dangerous to drive without obey the rules as cars do.

Several times drivers of motorbikes support that they are hurrying to go somewhere, as a result they used to drive onto the sidewalk in a busy area at the center of a town.

I believe that police must protect people walking on sidewalks from unsafe drivers. Not only will we more safe and satisfied with this issue but we won't have any problems and injuries.

Accidents will be reduced and the majority of drivers will be able to save themselves and the pedestrians. Police must take measures more effectives for the security of citizens. On behalf of all pedestrians, I'm requesting your serious thought to this plan. All of us must obey rules about public safety with these measures and fees that be costed more expensive, I believe that this situation will be changed.

I hope you take my suggestion into account and seriously consider the benefits you'll prefer at all citizens in this town. We thank you in advance.

Yours Sincerely,
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 3

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**Content and Development: 4**
The writer has fully developed this response with appropriate details. Initially it seems as though the writer is repeating the news story in the prompt, but further into the letter, the writer provides original, relevant ideas. Throughout the text, the writer stays focused on the central argument of the letter that police must do more to protect citizens from unsafe drivers. Because the writer doesn't drift from the main point, but rather, fully elaborates on it, this response is scored a 4 for Content and Development.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 4**
The response is appropriately organized. The writer begins the letter by providing the letter recipient with the context, and then proceeds to state an opinion and a request. Some transition markers are used (“According to the article;” “I believe that”) and these serve their intended purpose of guiding the reader through the text. Because the connection of ideas does not rely on just the mechanical use of transition markers, this response is rated a 4 for Organization and Connection of Ideas.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 3**
The writer demonstrates a sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task. “Police must take measures . . .”; “On behalf of all pedestrians . . .”; “seriously consider the benefits . . .” Although the text contains inaccuracies throughout these do not interfere with reader comprehension. “It’s very unsafe and dangerous to drive without obey the rules as cars do.” Because meaning is easily derived despite the prevalence of errors, this response is scored a 3 for Linguistic Range and Control.

**Communicative Effect: 3**
The writer has an adequate sense of audience. The letter takes on the tone of a public plea, with the writer making statements such as, “I’m requesting your serious thought to this plan.” The writer shows a sense of community by repeatedly using “us” and “we” to appeal to the chief of police to take action regarding the safety concerns discussed in the news article: “Not only will we more safe and satisfied with this issue but we won’t have any problems or injuries . . .”; “All of us must obey rules about public safety . . .”; “We thank you . . .” This is a very appropriate tone to use in such a letter, and this approach helps the reader connect to the text; however, the errors detract from the overall quality of this response, and therefore a score higher than a 3 for Communicative Effect cannot be awarded.
There are many ascients countries where most of tourists decide to go and see their monuments, their statues, their archeological museums. Every year masses of travel agencies organises package tours supporting the people who love the trips and they want to see museums, fossils, etc in other countries.

So, every year a large number of visitor arrives to tourist sites and they pay for seeing the museum’s exhibits and statues. They are people who admire the archeological culture and then they have a high desire to reach their target to see and admire foreign culture and history.

Maybe in high season like in the summer tourists are crowded and these places be in danger of destroying or damaging. But it is tourist’s problem. Perhaps the state will find solutions and solve this problem. I think that if the government grow the staff the things will be done better for the visitor. Additionally, I believe that guards will be increase in these places. Also the citizens can be organized in volunteer groups and they offer their occupations to help the tourists to be guided and see all the country’s displays.

Conclusion, I believe that every country every community can accommodate a large number of tourist if this country has the main facilities and accommodation.
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 4

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**Content and Development: 4**
The writer clearly sets up the essay topic in the opening paragraph. The main ideas are fully developed with appropriate supporting details. Paragraph two describes who the visitors are, while paragraph three explains who should be responsible for damage to tourist sites. Ideas are not richly developed, but they are more than adequate.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 3**
There is clear and adequate organization of ideas. Standard connectors are not used beyond those such as “So,” “But,” and “Additionally” (sic). In the first and second paragraphs, the writer sets the stage by describing what the tourists do, and then states her/his view on the matter. By doing this, the writer helps the reader follow the connection of the details presented. The paragraphing is helps the reader understand the organizational pattern but the connection of ideas between sentences is less effective.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 2**
Although a range of grammar and vocabulary is attempted, errors are frequent and can cause the reader to be confused. For example, in the third paragraph, “I think that if the Government grow the staff things will be done better for the visitor.” Overall, the writer has been quite ambitious in attempting some complex structures but is frequently unsuccessful.

**Communicative Effect: 2**
The language is occasionally a bit too informal for the essay task. For example, in the third paragraph, the sentence, “But it is tourist’s problem,” may be more appropriate for a letter than for an essay. The writer does show some understanding of the purpose for writing, but occasionally the reader has trouble following the text and this reduces the communicative effectiveness of the response.
Dear Dr. Smith,

I’m writing to express some of my views and give you some advice. Park Crowds cause lots of problems but we have to do something to protect the Marine’s National Park environment.

First of all one good idea is to change the transportation. If you get some busses, people will stop taking their cars. You can also make the transportation free so that it will attract lots of people. An other idea is to advertise the problem in the Internet or in the newspapers so that people will learn about the problem and the large number of park visitors will be limited.

Although the new changes I think that the number of visitors won’t be limited. The pollution will be stoped on the beach and in the water and the environment will be safe.

Finally you won’t have to limit the number of visitors because people won’t come by their cars and won’t damage the environment.

I hope I helped you and thanks you for listening to my views.

Yours faithfully,
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 5

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**Content and Development: 3**

In the first paragraph, the writer merely writes a stock opening and restates the prompt. The second paragraph addresses the use of transportation as a solution to the pollution issue. The latter part of that section is a useful suggestion and should be developed as a main point. The third and fourth paragraphs are repetitive and seem to miss the concept that the people may be the source of the pollution, not cars—in which case, the buses will only increase the problem. The content is only adequately developed and supported.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 3**

Organization is clear and standard connectors are used mechanically to support the transition of ideas (i.e., first of all, although, finally). Ideas are connected within paragraphs as well: “You can also . . .”; “Another idea is to . . .”

**Linguistic Range and Control: 3**

The writer’s ability to produce accurate grammatical sentences is adequate. Errors are minimal and do not confuse the reader; some sentences are error-free. An example of a sentence with an error follows, “Although the new changes I think that the number of visitors won’t be limited.” The range of vocabulary is sufficient to complete the task.

**Communicative Effect: 3**

While the text demonstrates that this writer is capable of producing adequate support of an argument, in this piece of writing the solution that the writer offers would worsen the problem. The writer has an adequate sense of audience but the fact that the writer seems to have misinterpreted the prompt takes away from the overall effect of the letter.
Motorbikes shouldn't have to obey the same rules as cars. Because cars are different from the motorbikes. If you drive a motorbike, you should have big attention. Motorbikes are more dangerous than cars. However, cars are very comfortable. Most people are afraid to drive a motorbike. They don't feel nice. So motorbikes should have special rules and not the same rules as cars.

Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 6

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**Content and Development: 1**
Lack of original content and no development of an argument beyond loosely supporting the first statement make this essay inadequate. The content is relevant to the prompt but development is so limited, it can only be awarded a 1 rating.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 2**
The essay has basic structure and organization. The eight sentences the writer produced are in one paragraph with no deliberate introduction, supporting details or conclusion. The writer states a clear opinion but the supporting ideas are not connected together effectively. One connector is used, albeit not appropriately. The ideas are not well connected but the first and last sentence provide a framework that the author could have expanded on.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 3**
The syntax of the sentences is generally accurate. The writer possesses a sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to complete the task; the errors are not distracting or misleading. Sentences are simple and some are error-free, “Most people are afraid to drive a motorbike.”

**Communicative Effect: 1**
Sufficient grammar and vocabulary suggest that the writer is capable of producing a more coherent text. However, the lack of original content, the absence of development and the minimal organization make this essay communicatively ineffective.
Dear Dr. Smith,

I agree with your decision, that is to limit the number of visitors. I am a lifeguard and every summer on the beaches I have seen all of this mess which exist in our beaches.

The crowd didn’t mind what’s the problem if they pullute the beaches where we will go the next summer for swim with our family.

Of course if you do not do anything and the crowd is going to be higher as a number the next year, then you earn more money than you earn before. But we and exactly you as a director of this park you must protect the environment and save the last things that we already have in safe, that is, the National Parks.

I am certainly denied with the last I write to you and of course I consider the opinion to limite the number of visitors.

I hope to hear that you make the right think and all is going to be better.

Yours Sincerely,
Scores and Commentary on Writing Sample 7

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Content and Development: 2
In general, the content is disconnected from the topic; the writer is more focused on pollution than on allowing fewer people into the national park. The examinee does not give clear supporting arguments to explain why the number of visitors should be reduced. The content is somewhat relevant and not taken directly from the prompt, so it is not an E rating, but overall the letter does not adequately develop an argument.

Organization and Connection of Ideas: 1
Connections between ideas are not apparent. No connector words (except “But” in the fourth paragraph) are used to link details together. The letter begins with the writer agreeing that the number of visitors should be limited, and directly afterward states that she/he is a lifeguard without an explanation of why that feature is relevant.

Linguistic Range and Control: 2
Grammar and vocabulary errors occur frequently and cause confusion for the reader. For example, in the second-to-last paragraph, “I am certainly denied with the last I write to you . . .” is unclear. Errors such as “save the last thing that we already have in safe” in the longest paragraph and “make the right think” in the final paragraph suggest that the examinee has insufficient control over grammar and vocabulary.

Communicative Effect: 1
The examinee does not have a sufficient sense of audience; the register of the writing is rather informal. The writer also presumes that the choice to limit park visitors has already been made (based on phrases such as “I agree with your decision . . .” or “Of course if you do not do anything . . .”), which illustrates a misunderstanding of the purpose for writing.
Dear Chief of police

I'm writing to explain what could be done to protect people walking on sidewalks from unsafe drivers.

In my opinion people should to walking on sidewalks. firstly for their safe your life, secondly because the government made this sidewalks last years for this thing. Thirdly people should be careful and cars out and streets. Also they can to don't listen music, reading book and they can't talk their mobile phones. People always mustn't to wal in streets.

The people should be to careful also and the small roads. It's is the most dangerous for all because the roads don't have Policeman and drivers do'nt careful and very much.

Also should be careful and drivers for example The drivers mustn't to running in the streets and dropping onto the sidewalk. Also should be careful at people and they look onto the sidewalk if people was up.

Generally the people should to fears than things for their past and the best of drivers

Best Wishes
Sample on Essay 8

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**Content and Development: 2**
The introduction merely copies the prompt. The second paragraph states simple, basic information about the safety of walking on streets and sidewalks. These sentences offer only very limited development, as they do not reference an accident or any solution to the problem. The content is not irrelevant to the prompt and the whole response does attempt to develop an argument. Hence, a rating of 2 is most appropriate for Content and Development.

**Organization and Connection of Ideas: 1**
Standard connectors, such as, “In my opinion,” “Also” and “Generally” are inappropriately used and do not create any flow within the letter. Minimal organization is present, but due to the lack of content development, the attempt at organization of ideas is not successful.

**Linguistic Range and Control: 1**
Some sentences have little meaning or require great effort from the reader to derive meaning, for example, “The people should be to careful also and the small roads. It’s is the most dangerous for all because the roads don't have Policeman and drivers don’t careful and very much.” The writer does not produce an error-free sentence in the response.

**Communicative Effect: 1**
The writer lacks the skills to create an effective response to the prompt task. The lack of content and the writer's inability to clearly organize ideas makes the text unsuccessful.