

## MELAB Composition Descriptions

- 97** Topic is richly and fully developed. Flexible use of a wide range of syntactic (sentence-level) structures, and accurate morphological (word forms) control. Organization is appropriate and effective, and there is excellent control of connection. There is a wide range of appropriately used vocabulary. Spelling and punctuation appear error-free.
- 93** Topic is fully and complexly developed. Flexible use of a wide range of syntactic structures. Morphological control is nearly always accurate. Organization is well controlled and appropriate to the material, and the writing is well connected. Vocabulary is broad and appropriately used. Spelling and punctuation errors are not distracting.
- 87** Topic is well developed, with acknowledgment of its complexity. Varied syntactic structures are used with some flexibility, and there is good morphological control. Organization is controlled and generally appropriate to the material, and there are few problems with connection. Vocabulary is broad and usually used appropriately. Spelling and punctuation errors are not distracting.
- 83** Topic is generally clearly and completely developed, with at least some acknowledgement of its complexity. Both simple and complex syntactic structures are generally adequately used; there is adequate morphological control. Organization is controlled and shows some appropriacy to the material, and connection is usually adequate. Vocabulary use shows some flexibility, and is usually appropriate. Spelling and punctuation errors are sometimes distracting.
- 77** Topic is developed clearly but not completely and without acknowledging its complexity. Both simple and complex syntactic structures are present; in some 77 essays, these are cautiously and accurately used while in others there is more fluency and less accuracy. Morphological control is inconsistent. Organization is generally controlled, while connection is sometimes absent or unsuccessful. Vocabulary is adequate but may sometimes be inappropriately used. Spelling and punctuation errors are sometimes distracting.
- 73** Topic development is present, although limited by incompleteness, lack of clarity, or lack of focus. The topic may be treated as though it has only one dimension, or only one point of view is possible. In some 73 essays, both simple and complex syntactic structures are present, but with many errors; others have accurate syntax but are very restricted in the range of language attempted. Morphological control is inconsistent. Organization is partially controlled, while connection is often absent or unsuccessful. Vocabulary is sometimes inadequate, and sometimes inappropriately used. Spelling and punctuation errors are sometimes distracting.
- 67** Topic development is present but restricted, and often incomplete or unclear. Simple syntactic structures dominate, with many errors; complex syntactic structures, if present, are not controlled. Lacks morphological control. Organization, when apparent, is poorly controlled, and little or no connection is apparent. Narrow and simple vocabulary usually approximates meaning but is often inappropriately used. Spelling and punctuation errors are often distracting.
- 63** Contains little sign of topic development. Simple syntactic structures are present, but with many errors; lacks morphological control. There is little or no organization, and no connection apparent. Narrow and simple vocabulary inhibits communication, and spelling and punctuation errors often cause serious interference.
- 57** Often extremely short; contains only fragmentary communication about the topic. There is little syntactic or morphological control, and no organization or connection are apparent. Vocabulary is highly restricted and inaccurately used. Spelling is often indecipherable and punctuation is missing or appears random.
- 53** Extremely short, usually about 40 words or less; communicates nothing, and is often copied directly from the prompt. There is little sign of syntactic or morphological control, and no apparent organization or connection. Vocabulary is extremely restricted and repetitively used. Spelling is often indecipherable and punctuation is missing or appears random.
- 0** *A zero can be given to a nonresponse.* A completely blank answer sheet or simply the test taker's name on the space where the essay should be written.
- A zero can also be given to a composition that is written on a topic different from any of those assigned. Connection of composition to the prompt may be so loose that the essay could very well have been prepared in advance. Considerable effort must be made to see the connection between the composition and the prompt.*