Scoring rubric: The Mellon Project Assessment of Student Writing

Below are eight statements that describe characteristics of effective writing.

A score of 1 indicates that a paper *completely fails* to meet the criterion.
A score of 7 indicates that a paper *completely meets* the criterion of evaluation.
Please evaluate the paper according to these criteria.

1. **Author edited to correct misspellings and other obvious mechanical errors.**
   (spelling, capitals, apostrophes, mechanics of documentation, punctuation of quotations, …)
   
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. **Author followed standard conventions of grammar and usage.**
   (grammatical rules, general punctuation, possessives, tense, dangling modifiers, correct word choice, e.g., affect/effect, …)
   
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. **Author omitted needless words and chose words wisely.**
   (concise expression, correct use of idioms, effective diction, appropriately constructed sentences, including appropriate integration of quotations, …)
   
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. **Author developed unified and coherent paragraphs.**

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. **Author used evidence effectively.**
   (appropriate evidence, sufficient evidence, clear identification of sources, responsible attribution of sources, evidence analyzed, evidence and claims logically related, sound logic, multiple points of view considered if appropriate, …)
   
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. **Author clearly communicated the purpose, design, and major points of the paper.**

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7. **Author developed an interesting theme or argument.**

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8. **Author demonstrated complexity of intellectual reach.**
   (critical thinking, insight, originality, ambitiousness, …)

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7