STAAR AND STAAR A COMPOSITIONS
NONSCORABLE RESPONSES—GRADES 4 AND 7 AND ENGLISH I, II, AND III

The rubrics used to evaluate STAAR and STAAR A compositions are based on four score points (1–4), with 1 being the lowest score and 4 being the highest. If a composition cannot be scored, it is assigned a score of 0. Responses are considered nonscorable if they fall into one of the following categories.

**BLANK**
The student writes nothing on the answer document in response to the prompt.

**OFF TOPIC**
The student writes on a topic other than that prescribed by the prompt. In some of these responses, the writer pays brief attention to the specified topic before shifting to another topic. In other responses the writer writes on an entirely different topic, making no mention of the specified topic.

**INDECIPHERABLE**
The student makes an attempt to write but cannot generate coherent words and/or phrases in response to the prompt. Instead, the student strings letters, words, and/or phrases together in a meaningless fashion.

**ILLEGIBLE**
The student makes an attempt to write but has handwriting and/or spelling problems that are so severe that it is impossible to decipher the writing.

**WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH**
The student writes primarily in a language other than English when taking the test in English, or the student writes primarily in a language other than Spanish when taking the test in Spanish.

**INSUFFICIENT**
The student’s response is so brief that the reader cannot make an accurate judgment about the quality of the writing.

**LACKS ANY ORIGINAL WRITING**
The student merely copies or paraphrases the prompt, content from another portion of the test, or content from a previously published work, such as the lyrics to a song.

**DOES NOT WRITE IN PROSE**
The student’s response to the prompt is in the form of a poem, play, or song instead of in standard written prose.

**REFUSES TO WRITE**
The only writing on the answer document is the student’s explicit refusal to respond to the prompt.