

## Writing about Science

**Writing Task:** Explain a scientific process or idea of your choice.

**Student Samples: Scientific Process**

### High

Embryonic stem cell research is a topic of ethical debate that many scientists and theologians cannot agree on. One of the main topics discussed is the point in time an embryo becomes a human being. From a theologian's stand point, once sperm and egg meet, a zygote is formed, the earliest form of an embryo. Some scientists, however, disagree with this opinion. Many scientists believe that an embryo is not a human because of the absence of a nervous system and human-like features. This debate becomes very personal. Should we murder embryos to save lives or should we use the resources we already have to learn more about the human body?

#### **Analysis: Score 6**

*This paragraph focuses on the **topic**, has **logical order**, and uses scientific **vocabulary**. **Sentences** are fluent, **details** are provided, and the **tone** is appropriate.*

### Average

Have you ever needed to find the density of something? It is quite simple actually, all you have to do is divide the objects mass by its volume. To find the mass you place it on a scale and write down the readings. Its volume is found either by placing it in a fluid and doing the calculations or by multiplying its length, width, and height. Density may be very useful to you some day.

#### **Analysis: Score 3**

*The paragraph focuses on the **topic**, has **logical order**, and uses **vocabulary** related to the concept of density. Sentence patterns are lower level, details could be more precise, and tone is too familiar.*

### Low

One of the most popular experiments that most kids did when they were young is the mouse and maze experiment. First you make four mazes and put a piece of cheese. Each maze has a different level. You then use a stopwatch to count the time it takes the mouse. This is my favorite experiment.

#### **Analysis: Score 2**

*This student focuses on the **topic** of a favorite science experiment. The paper has **logical order**, but no **vocabulary**, no complex sentence patterns, and no scientific details. The tone of the paper is too informal.*