

Writing Rubric

Name _____ Block _____

Date _____

	Focus	Content	Organization	Style	Conventions
Advanced 5	Sharp, distinct thesis with evident awareness of task and audience; Topic sentences precisely support TS; all paragraphs unified	Substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development and supported with well-chosen details from the text; meets length requirement	Sophisticated arrangement of content in logical order with evident clinchers, hooks and/subtle transitions; Effective introduction and conclusion in correct organizational format; all paragraphs cohere	Precise, illustrative use of a variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience; excellent variety of action verbs	Few errors, if any, are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, and the errors that are present do not interfere with meaning (1-2 errors per page)
Proficient 4	Clear thesis with sufficient awareness of task and audience; Topic sentences adequately support TS; all paragraphs mostly unified	Adequate, specific, and/or illustrative content demonstrating adequate explanation and well-chosen details from the text; meets length requirement	Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of clinchers, hooks and transitions; Adequate introduction and conclusion in correct organizational format; paragraphs mostly cohere	Appropriate use of a variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience; variety of action verbs	Some errors are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, but few, if any, of the errors that are present interfere with meaning (3-4 errors per page)
Basic 3	Vague evidence of a thesis with inconsistent awareness of task and audience; Topic sentences inadequately support TS; ¶s lack unity	Inadequate, vague content with underdeveloped and/or repetitive elaboration with inconsistently supported information from the text and/or criticisms; does not meet length requirement.	Inconsistent arrangement of content with insufficient attempts at clinchers, hooks, and transitions; Inadequate introduction and conclusion with a few errors in organizational format	Limited word choice and control of sentence structures that inhibit writer's voice and tone; minimal use of action verbs	Many errors are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, and some of the errors interfere with meaning (5-6 errors per page)
Below Basic 2	Little or no evidence of a thesis with a minimal awareness of task and audience; Topic sentences do not support TS	Superficial and/or minimal content; Little or no details from the text and/or criticisms; does not meet length requirement.	Minimal control of content arrangement with little or no evidence of clinchers, hooks, and transitions; Many errors in organizational format	Minimal variety in word choice and control of sentence structures; always introduces quotes with "says"	Many errors are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, and many of the errors interfere with meaning (7+ errors per page)
0	Non-scorable	Non-scorable	Non-scorable	Non-scorable	Non-scorable

Essay: _____/25 x2 = _____/50

How can I improve in each focus area?

Focus	Content Development	Organization	Style	Conventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Everything relates to one topic ✓ Purpose ✓ Audience ✓ Thesis Statement formula ✓ Topic Sentence formula ✓ Concluding (clincher) sentence formula ✓ Unity – deciding what belongs and what doesn't belong ✓ Each body paragraph has a controlling idea ✓ "A" in RACE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Substantial development ✓ No vague abstractions ✓ Concrete details ✓ Specific details ✓ Examples ✓ Statistics ✓ Facts ✓ Reasons ✓ Illustrations ✓ Quotations ✓ Anecdotes ✓ "C" and "E" in RACE ✓ Clear explanations between examples and topic sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arrangement of ideas ✓ Transitions (words/ phrases/ clauses) ✓ Paragraph hooks ✓ Coherence: smooth "flow" between sentences ✓ Introduction ✓ Conclusion ✓ Appropriate organizational pattern ✓ Chronological Order ✓ Cause and Effect ✓ Compare/Contrast ✓ General to specific ✓ Order of importance ✓ Quote Integration with proper plot context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Word Choice ✓ Varied Sentence Length & Structure ✓ Varied Sentence Beginnings ✓ Parallel Structure ✓ Passive/Active Voice ✓ No "there is" ✓ No "is because" ✓ No "is when" ✓ No naked "this" ✓ Good action verbs ✓ Figurative language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Spelling ✓ Capitalization ✓ Punctuation ✓ No fragments ✓ No run-ons ✓ No comma splices ✓ Subject/verb agreement ✓ Pronoun/ antecedent agreement ✓ Sentences joined correctly ✓ consistent verb tense