

Explication Essay Rubric: Renaissance Humanism

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Focus on Topic	The paper has a clear, focus on a characteristic of Renaissance Humanism. Its main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	The paper's focus on a characteristic of Renaissance Humanism is clear but the supporting information is general.	The paper's focus on a characteristic of Renaissance Humanism is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The paper's focus on Renaissance Humanism is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Analysis	Accurately describes several dominant elements used by the artist and playwright and accurately relates how they are examples of a characteristic of Renaissance Humanism.	Accurately describes a couple of dominant elements used by the artist and playwright and accurately relates how they are examples of a characteristic of Renaissance Humanism.	Describes some dominant elements used by the artist and playwright, but has difficulty describing how these relate to the characteristic of Renaissance Humanism.	Has trouble picking out the dominant elements and/or does not consider both the painting and the play. Does not relate the elements to Renaissance Humanism.
Conclusion	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at" and why the information is worthwhile.	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends or introduces new ideas.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.
Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	Writer makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling that distract the reader from the content.