

Essay Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Focus	There is a clear, well-focused analysis of the issue, including discussion of at least two different "languages." The main idea stands out and is well supported.	There is a clear analysis of the issue, including discussion of at least two different "languages"; but the supporting information is general.	The analysis of the issue is somewhat clear, but there is a need for more supporting information and/or a more complete exploration of the two different "languages."	The analysis of the issue is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Support	Strong, relevant details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Organization	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. The essay includes a strong conclusion and a variety of thoughtful transitions.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented sometimes makes the writing less interesting. The essay includes a conclusion and transitions.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. The essay may be missing a conclusion. Connections between ideas are missing or fuzzy.	There is little sense that the writing is organized. Key structures are missing. The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.
Voice	The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience.	The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic.	The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic.	There is no personality in the piece. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else.
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well constructed with varied structure and length.	Most sentences are well constructed with varied structure and length.	Most sentences are well constructed but have a similar structure and/or length.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling.
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.