

Writing Assessment Rubric

Student Sample # _____

Rater # _____

This rubric asks you to identify features of the writing present in the sample. You should *apply the numerical score based on degree of presence* of the characteristic features. The writing features selected for the rubric are those most likely present in any disciplinary writing sample and represent a writing level expected of a senior-level college student.

- Legend:
- 4=features are most always present
 - 3=features are often present
 - 2=features are not often present
 - 1=few features are present
 - N/A = Not Applicable

CATEGORY	CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES	SCORE
<p>Ideas/Critical Thinking/Synthesis <i>The depth of sophistication of thoughts and ideas.</i> Features may include research, reasoning, evidence, detail, and development (appropriate to the field and genre)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central subject or argument of the assignment is easily identified, clearly emphasized, consistent with the evidence, and intriguing • Reasoning is fully developed throughout the assignment with logical examples, details, and evidence where and as appropriate • Assignment contains information that addresses counterarguments, biases, or reader’s expectations as appropriate 	
<p>Style <i>The choices the writer makes for specific audiences.</i> Features may include word choice, tone, and sentence length and structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained awareness of audience throughout the assignment • Writing tone suits the audience and enhances the assignment’s purpose • Sentence structure varies according to the content, purpose, and audience • Sentences are consistently clear and logical • Word choice is appropriate to the writing task 	
<p>Organization <i>The coherence of the writing.</i> Features may include balance and ordering of ideas, flow, transition, and appropriate format (as defined in assignment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text is purposefully organized and substantially developed in a way that clarifies the argument and enhances style • Arrangement of ideas (overall structure) is clear, logical, and compelling as appropriate to the assignment; the reader moves through the text easily • Internal structure is cohesive and coherent; text flows and ideas are clearly and logically connected • Transitions used appropriately 	
<p>Conventions <i>Adherence to standard American edited English.</i> Features include grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and documentation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar and mechanics support the reader’s understanding of the writer’s purpose without distracting errors • Documentation style is consistent, if appropriate to assignment • Sources, when appropriate, are effectively integrated into the body of the assignment • Minor errors do not interfere with readability or damage the writer’s credibility (as appropriate to the assignment parameters) 	
Total:		