

Writing Assignment Rubric (ages 14+)

Suggested criteria

Learning Outcome	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaching expectations	Below expectations
Content	<p>The writing thoroughly addresses the topic/prompt.</p> <p>There is a clear, thoughtful thesis statement.</p> <p>There is ample evidence and strong reasoning to support the thesis.</p>	<p>The writing addresses the topic/prompt.</p> <p>There is a complete thesis statement.</p> <p>There is sufficient evidence and reasoning to support the thesis, but they may be lacking some development.</p>	<p>The writing attempts to address the topic/prompt.</p> <p>While a main idea is present, there may not be a clear thesis statement.</p> <p>There are some details to support the main idea, but they could be significantly more numerous, reasoned, and/or developed.</p>	<p>The writing barely addresses the topic/prompt, or the writing does not address the topic/prompt at all.</p>
Organization of ideas	<p>There is a well-defined introduction, body, and conclusion.</p> <p>There is a highly logical, compelling progression of ideas from start to finish.</p> <p>Transitions skillfully relate and build upon the ideas presented to create a unified product.</p>	<p>There is an introduction, body, and conclusion.</p> <p>Ideas are presented somewhat logically, but they may lack some cohesion.</p> <p>Transitions serve to link ideas throughout the writing.</p>	<p>The writing may lack a distinct introduction and/or conclusion.</p> <p>There are sections of the writing organized around a particular idea, but the ideas within that section may be disjointed.</p> <p>There are some missing transitions, and/or transitions are weak.</p>	<p>The writing has very little or no apparent organization.</p> <p>The progression of ideas has no apparent logic.</p>
Style	<p>Sentences are well-constructed, with a variety of structures and lengths.</p> <p>Word choice is concise, impactful, and richly varied. The writing employs creative vocabulary as well as content-specific vocabulary where appropriate.</p>	<p>Most sentences are well-constructed, with variation in structure and length.</p> <p>Word choice is clear, accurate, and at least somewhat varied. The writing includes content-specific vocabulary where appropriate.</p>	<p>Some sentences are well-constructed, but with little variation in structure and length.</p> <p>Word choice is generally clear and accurate, although it may be lacking in variety. At least some content-specific vocabulary is used.</p>	<p>Sentences are difficult to understand, awkward, and/or repetitive.</p> <p>Word choice is vague, incorrect, and/or repetitive. There is no attempt to use content-specific vocabulary, or it is misused.</p>
Conventions and mechanics	<p>There are very few or no errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.</p> <p>The writing is correctly formatted throughout.</p>	<p>There are a few slight errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling.</p> <p>Most portions of the writing are correctly formatted.</p>	<p>There are several errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling, some of which may impact the ease of reading.</p> <p>There is an evident attempt at correct formatting; at least some portions of the writing are formatted correctly, or almost correctly.</p>	<p>There are many errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling that significantly interfere with meaning.</p> <p>There is no evident attempt at correct formatting, or there is no portion of the writing which approaches correct formatting.</p>

Optional criterion

Learning Outcome	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaching expectations	Below expectations
Academic citations	<p>Academic citations are always included where appropriate.</p> <p>All citations are formatted correctly.</p>	<p>Academic citations are included where appropriate.</p> <p>Most citations are formatted correctly.</p>	<p>Academic citations are usually included where appropriate.</p> <p>Some citations are formatted correctly.</p>	<p>Academic citations are rarely or never included where appropriate, or citations are rarely or never formatted correctly.</p>