

College-Level Writing Rubric

	Masterful	Skilled	Able	Developing	Novice	(Way Off)
Focus, Purpose, Thesis (Controlling Idea) A	Engaging and full development of a clear thesis as appropriate to assignment purpose.	Competent and well-developed thesis; thesis represents sound and adequate understanding of the assigned topic.	Mostly intelligible ideas; thesis is weak, unclear, too broad, or only indirectly supported.	Mostly simplistic and unfocused ideas; little or no sense of purpose or control of thesis.	Ideas are extremely simplistic, showing signs of confusion, misunderstanding of the prompt; thesis is essentially missing or not discernible.	Shows complete confusion about the topic or inability to grasp it; thus conspicuous absence of thesis and lack of purpose.
Ideas, Support & Development (Evidence) B	Consistent evidence with originality and depth of ideas; ideas work together as a unified whole; main points are sufficiently supported (with evidence); support is valid and specific.	Ideas supported sufficiently; support is sound, valid, and logical.	Main points and ideas are only indirectly supported; support isn't sufficient or specific, but is loosely relevant to main points.	Insufficient, non-specific, and/or irrelevant support.	Lack of support for main points; frequent and logical generalizations without support.	Clear absence of support for main points.
Structure, Organization C	Organization is sequential and appropriate to assignment; paragraphs are well developed and appropriately divided; ideas linked with smooth and effective transitions.	Competent organization, without sophistication. Competent paragraph structure; lacking in effective transitions.	Limited attempts to organize around a thesis; paragraphs are mostly stand-alones with weak or non-evident transitions.	Organization, while attempted, was unsuccessful. Paragraphs were simple, disconnected and formulaic. No evident transitions or planned sequence.	Organization, if evident at all, is confusing and disjointed; paragraph structure is weak; transitions are missing, inappropriate and/or illogical.	Paragraph structure does not exist, or is a single rambling paragraph or series of isolated paragraphs.
Audience, Tone, and Point-of-View D	Clear discernment of distinctive audience; tone and point-of-view appropriate to the assignment.	Effective and accurate awareness of general audience; tone and point-of-view satisfactory.	Little or inconsistent sense of audience related to assignment purpose; tone and point-of-view not refined or consistent.	Shows almost no awareness of a particular audience; reveals no grasp of appropriate tone and/or point-of-view for given assignment.	Lacks awareness of a particular appropriate audience for assignment; tone and point-of-view somewhat inappropriate or very inconsistent.	No evident awareness of audience as appropriate to assignments; tone completely inappropriate to assignment.
Sentence Structure (Grammar) E	Each sentence structured effectively, powerfully, rich, well-chosen variety of sentence styles and length.	Effective and varied sentences; errors (if any) due to lack of careful proofreading; syntax errors (if any) reflect uses as colloquialisms.	Formulaic or tedious sentence patterns; shows some errors in sentence construction; some non-standard syntax usage.	Sentences show errors of structure; little or no variety; no grasp of sentence flow.	Simple sentences used excessively; almost exclusively; frequent errors of sentence structure.	Contains multiple and serious errors of sentence structure; i.e., fragments, run-ons. Unable to write simple sentences.
Mechanics and Presentation F	Virtually free of punctuation, spelling, capitalization errors; appropriate format and presentation for assignment.	Contains only occasional punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors. Few formatting errors. Most errors likely careless.	Contains several (mostly common) punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors. Several errors in formatting or formatting is inconsistent.	Contains many errors of punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization. Errors interfere with meaning in places. Formatting incorrect in most places.	Contains many and serious errors of punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization; errors severely interfere with meaning. Formatting weak.	Frequent errors in spelling and capitalization; intrusive and/or inaccurate punctuation; communication is hindered. No formatting as appropriate to assignment.
Vocabulary and Word Usage G	Exceptional vocabulary range; accuracy, and correct and effective word usage.	Good vocabulary range and accuracy of usage.	Ordinary vocabulary range; mostly accurate; some vernacular terms.	Errors of diction, and usage; while evident, do not interfere with readability.	Extremely limited vocabulary; choices lack grasp of diction; usage is inaccurate.	Diction and syntax make communication meaningless or very confusing at best.
	Masterful	Skilled	Able	Developing	Novice	(Way Off)
	10	7	5	3	2	0
	25	20	15	10	5	0
	10	7	5	3	2	0