

Writing Assessment

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak
Rhetorical Sophistication purpose, voice, audience awareness	Positions are clearly stated; complexities of relevant issues and multiple viewpoints are addressed.	Positions are generally clear; some alternative viewpoints are acknowledged and/or addressed.	Positions are somewhat evident , and writer is at least aware of opposing viewpoints.	Lacks position on topics; superficial; little to no addressing of various viewpoints.
Quality of Thought logic, evidence and support	Unified; strong control of content; opinions and claims are well-supported with ample evidence.	Generally unified; ideas are balanced; opinions and claims are adequately supported.	Partially unified; ideas are mostly balanced; opinions and claims are minimally supported.	Little evidence of control of ideas; ideas are not supported; support is cliché/sloganeering.
Use of Sources attribution and documentation	Sources are clearly identified/synthesized; textual citations and works cited are appropriate and correct.	Mostly effective use and citation of sources; some synthesis and evidence of citations in text & works cited.	Mixed use of source material; uneven synthesis and/or evidence of citations in text and works cited.	Little to no citation of obvious source material in text or works cited; no synthesis of sources.
Structure unity, coherence, transitions	Ideas are well connected through structural and linguistic transitions; structure complements and completes content.	Evidence of effective structural and linguistic transitions; structure is generally adequate for the content.	Mixed effectiveness of structural and linguistic transitions; structure and content sometimes appear mismatched.	Overall unity and coherence are flawed; parts are poorly connected, and there is little evidence of planning or organization.
Language clarity, expression, eloquence	Diction and syntax are well chosen to express ideas; rich and varied vocabulary and writing style.	Effective language, with mostly appropriate vocabulary and writing style.	Acceptable language, although limited in vocabulary and writing style.	Language errors and limited choices in syntactical forms. Language limits and distracts from expression of ideas.
Mechanics and Usage grammar, agreement, punctuation, spelling	Grammatical structures are well chosen; no usage errors distract from the “flow” of meaning/ideas.	Grammatical structures carry the meaning forward, with only minor usage errors.	Grammatical structures are sometimes inappropriate or confusing; the flow of meaning is occasionally disrupted by usage errors.	Grammar and/or usage errors are so obtrusive that readers are seriously distracted by them; the text is difficult to read to the end.
Overall Quality				