

Essay Writing Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4 pts)	Proficient (3 pts)	Basic (2 pts)	Below Basic (1 pt)
Understanding & Ideas: Knows and explains the main ideas from the lesson.	Understands and gives clear explanations of key ideas.	Understands most ideas, but may miss a few.	Understands only a few ideas.	Struggles to understand and explain ideas.
Thesis & Points: States a clear main point that fits the topic.	Clearly states a main point that matches the topic.	States a main point, but it could be clearer.	The main point is somewhat clear.	Main point is unclear or off-topic.
Proof & Examples: Gives good proof from the reading to support ideas.	Uses strong quotes and examples from the reading to back up points.	Uses quotes and examples, but they may need more detail.	Tries to use quotes and examples, but they might not fit well.	Struggles to use relevant quotes or examples.
Organization & Flow: Has a clear beginning, middle, and end, with ideas that connect smoothly.	Ideas are in a logical order with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions connect ideas smoothly.	Has a clear beginning, middle, and end, but some ideas or transitions could connect better.	Has some structure, but the order of ideas may be confusing or jumpy in places.	Lacks a clear structure. Ideas are hard to follow.
Writing Style & Words: Uses varied words and sentences to make writing engaging.	Writes with interesting words and sentence styles.	Uses clear language, but might repeat words.	Writing is simple and may repeat words often.	Writing is very basic and lacks variety.
Correctness: Makes very few grammar, punctuation, or spelling mistakes.	Writing is almost free of errors.	Has a few small mistakes, but they don't distract.	Has noticeable errors, but they don't take away from the writing.	Has many errors that make it hard to understand.
Creativity & New Ideas: Adds personal thoughts and new ideas to the writing.	Brings in unique thoughts and original ideas.	Adds some personal thoughts, but more could be included.	Includes a few personal thoughts, but they may not be very original.	Lacks personal thoughts and original ideas.