

Writing Assessment Rubric

	3 – Proficient	2 – Acceptable	1 – Developing
	The writing is characterized by most or all of the following:	The writing is characterized by most or all of the following:	The writing is characterized by most or all of the following:
Style <i>The choices the writer makes for specific audiences. Features may include word choice, tone, and sentence length and structure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained awareness of audience throughout the paper • The writer’s tone compliments the paper’s purpose and suits the audience • Sentence structure varies according to the content, purpose, and audience • Sentences are clear, logical, and enjoyable to read • Word choice is precise, interesting and appropriate to the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of audience in the majority of the paper • The tone, though generally consistent, at times appears inappropriate to the writer’s purpose and audience • Sentences are varied in structure, only occasionally choppy or repetitive • Sentences are generally clear, logical and readable • Writer demonstrates general control over vocabulary appropriate to the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal or no awareness of audience or purpose • The writer’s tone frequently appears inappropriate to the writer’s purpose and audience • Sentences tend to be basic, choppy, or structurally repetitive • Some words chosen are vague and inappropriate
Idea or Content Development <i>The depth or sophistication of thoughts and ideas. Features may include research, reasoning, evidence, detail, and development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central subject or argument of the paper is clearly emphasized and consistent with the evidence • Original ideas or examples or independent reasoning are fully elaborated throughout the paper with logical examples, details, and evidence • Response contains an abundance of information that fully addresses counterarguments, biases, or readers’ expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central subject or argument of the paper is clearly identifiable and consistent with the evidence • Some original ideas or examples or independent reasoning are evident • Supporting ideas are developed with some examples, details, and/or evidence • Some parts of the paper may be well developed, but other parts of the paper are only partially developed • Response contains sufficient information to provide a sense of completeness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central subject or argument of the paper is overly general or lacks consistency with the evidence • Ideas are basic or obvious • Ideas are unclear, irrelevant, and/or repeated • Attempt at development is evident, but unsuccessful • Lacks a sense of completeness and fails to address reader concerns
Organization <i>The coherence of the writing. Features may include balance and ordering of ideas, flow, transition, and appropriate format</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs are purposefully organized and substantially developed • The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily • Thoughtful use of transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective structure and arrangement of ideas • Order of paragraphs may, occasionally, appear mechanical or awkward • Order or balance of ideas within paragraphs is generally consistent and cohesive • Transitions present but may be cumbersome or repetitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs frequently seem unrelated or repetitive • Paragraph sequence may be confusing • The order or balance of ideas within paragraphs is inconsistent • Little or inappropriate use of transitions
Conventions <i>Includes grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, documentation, etc.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling of grammar and mechanics enhances the reader's understanding of the writer's purpose • Documentation style is consistent • When appropriate, quotes are effectively integrated into the body of the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errors do not interfere with communication • Documentation style is mostly consistent • When appropriate, an effort is made to integrate quotes into the body of the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errors interfere with communication and damage the writer’s credibility • Documentation style is inconsistent • Quotes, if appropriate, are not integrated well into the body of the paper