



SAMPLE RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING STUDENT ESSAYS

Essay Prompts:

1. How can young people be involved in their community or their government?
2. What political values do you think are most important to the health of our democracy, and why?
3. The Preamble to the Constitution begins: “We the people, in order to form a more perfect union...” What should the United States do to build a “more perfect” union?

Development of Topic and Details			
4 - Superior	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Proficient	1 - Needs Improvement
<p>The response, ideas, and conclusion are clearly and fully developed, original, and insightful.</p> <p>Rich supporting details increase audience interest and enhance development of the essay.</p>	<p>The response, ideas, and conclusion are consistently and fully developed, original, and insightful.</p> <p>Supporting details enhance development of the essay.</p>	<p>The response, ideas, and conclusion are adequate.</p> <p>Details are accurate and relevant, and provide some elaboration.</p>	<p>The response, ideas, and conclusion are inconsistent or basic in development.</p> <p>The essay lacks details or details are inaccurate.</p>
Voice			
4 - Superior	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Proficient	1 - Needs Improvement
<p>The author develops effective and strong connection with the audience and reflects their interest in and commitment to the topic.</p> <p>Purpose is powerful and engaging.</p>	<p>The author develops connection with the audience and demonstrates interest in the topic.</p> <p>Purpose is credible but not powerful.</p>	<p>The author develops some connection with the audience and demonstrates mild interest in the topic.</p> <p>Purpose is clear but lacks conviction.</p>	<p>The author does not consider their connection with the audience and demonstrates minimal interest in the topic.</p> <p>Purpose is not evident.</p>
Coherence and Clarity			
4 - Superior	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Proficient	1 - Needs Improvement
<p>The writing is clear and coherent and the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.</p>	<p>The writing is mostly clear and coherent, in which the development, organization, and style are mostly appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.</p>	<p>The writing is generally clear and coherent, and the development, organization, and style are somewhat appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p>Errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization may occasionally impede understanding but the meaning is generally clear.</p>	<p>The writing is minimally coherent, in which the development, organization, and style are limited to the task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p>Errors in grammar and usage are frequent and impede understanding.</p>