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## **Essay Rubric**

**Directions:** Your essay will be graded based on this rubric. Consequently, use this rubric as a guide when writing your essay and check it again before you submit your essay.

| Traits   | 4   | 3   | 2   | 1  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Focus &<br>Details   | There is one clear, well-<br>focused topic. Main<br>ideas are clear and<br>are well supported by<br>detailed and accurate<br>information.   | There is one clear, well-<br>focused topic. Main<br>ideas are clear but are<br>not well supported by<br>detailed information.   | There is one topic.<br>Main ideas are<br>somewhat clear.  | The topic and main ideas are not clear.  |
| Organization   | The introduction is<br>inviting, states the main<br>topic, and provides<br>an overview of the<br>paper. Information is<br>relevant and presented<br>in a logical order. The<br>conclusion is strong.            | The introduction states<br>the main topic and<br>provides an overview<br>of the paper. A<br>conclusion is included.   | The introduction states<br>the main topic. A<br>conclusion is included.   | There is no clear<br>introduction, structure,<br>or conclusion.  |
| Voice  | The author's purpose<br>of writing is very clear,<br>and there is strong<br>evidence of attention<br>to audience. The<br>author's extensive<br>knowledge and/or<br>experience with the<br>topic is/are evident. | The author's purpose<br>of writing is somewhat<br>clear, and there is some<br>evidence of attention<br>to audience. The<br>author's knowledge<br>and/or experience with<br>the topic is/are evident.                  | The author's purpose<br>of writing is somewhat<br>clear, and there is<br>evidence of attention<br>to audience. The<br>author's knowledge<br>and/or experience with<br>the topic is/are limited.                         | The author's purpose of writing is unclear.  |
| Word Choice  | The author uses vivid<br>words and phrases. The<br>choice and placement<br>of words seems<br>accurate, natural, and<br>not forced.  | The author uses vivid<br>words and phrases. The<br>choice and placement<br>of words is inaccurate<br>at times and/or seems<br>overdone.   | The author uses words<br>that communicate<br>clearly, but the writing<br>lacks variety.   | The writer uses a<br>limited vocabulary.<br>Jargon or clichés may<br>be present and detract<br>from the meaning.   |
| Sentence<br>Structure,<br>Grammar,<br>Mechanics, &<br>Spelling | All sentences are well<br>constructed and have<br>varied structure and<br>length. The author<br>makes no errors in<br>grammar, mechanics,<br>and/or spelling.   | Most sentences are<br>well constructed and<br>have varied structure<br>and length. The author<br>makes a few errors in<br>grammar, mechanics,<br>and/or spelling, but<br>they do not interfere<br>with understanding. | Most sentences are well<br>constructed, but they<br>have a similar structure<br>and/or length. The<br>author makes several<br>errors in grammar,<br>mechanics, and/or<br>spelling that interfere<br>with understanding. | Sentences sound<br>awkward, are<br>distractingly repetitive,<br>or are difficult to<br>understand. The author<br>makes numerous errors<br>in grammar, mechanics,<br>and/or spelling<br>that interfere with<br>understanding. |
| Reviewer's<br>Comments   |   | 1   | 1   | 1  |