

Writing to Graduate

HOLISTIC NEVADA RUBRIC

6 - Superior

Exemplifies ALL OR MOST of the following:

- Focuses and develops ideas in a sustained and compelling manner, showing creativity and insight.
- If persuasive, clarifies and defends with precise and relevant evidence; clearly defines and frames issues.
- Effectively organizes ideas in a clear, logical, detailed, and coherent manner using appropriate structures to enhance the central idea or theme.
- Demonstrates involvement with the text and speaks purposefully to the audience in an appropriate, individualistic, and engaging manner.
- Uses multiple sentence structures and word choices effectively and with a sense of control for stylistic effect.
- Commits few, if any, errors in standard English rules for grammar, usage, and mechanics.

3 - Inadequate

Flawed in SOME OR ALL of the following ways:

- Focuses, but may not display mature or well-developed content.
- If persuasive, attempts defense, but position is unclear and/or evidence is brief, tangential, or based solely on personal opinion.
- Displays minimal organization; contains irrelevancies, digresses, rambles, or lacks logic.
- Lacks sincerity of purpose in the writer's attempt to involve the audience appropriately.
- Uses sentence structure and word choice that are somewhat limited, simplistic, mundane, or otherwise inappropriate.
- Contains flaws in Standard English rules of grammar/usage and mechanics that do not impede meaning; indicates some consistent misunderstanding of the conventions.

5 - Above Average

Displays ALL OR MOST of the following:

- Focuses and develops ideas in an effective and detailed manner.
- If persuasive, defends with important and relevant evidence; defines and frames issues.
- Organizes ideas clearly and coherently using structures appropriate to purposes.
- Communicates a sense of commitment to the topic and to the audience's involvement.
- Uses varied sentence structure and word choice effectively.
- Commits few errors in standard English grammar and mechanics.

2 - Very Weak

Reveals serious, persistent weaknesses in SOME OR ALL of the following:

- Lacks focus and development; may list items with little or no supporting detail.
- If persuasive, defense and stance is unclear or absent; evidence is vague or missing.
- Contains serious flaws in structure, organization, and coherence.
- Attempts to but fails to involve the audience appropriately.
- Uses sentence structure and word choice that are highly limited, simplistic, or otherwise inappropriate.
- Displays consistent violations in Standard English rules of grammar, usage, and mechanics that impede understanding.

4 - Adequate

Exhibits ALL OR MOST of the following:

- Adequately focuses and develops ideas with detail.
- If persuasive, defends with support and clarity, using relevant evidence.
- Organizes ideas in a satisfactory manner with adequate coherence and logic.
- Uses a voice that is appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Uses a variety of sentence structures and word choice, but occasionally displays some wordiness or ineffective diction; sentences may be predictable.
- Commits some errors in standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics that do not impede meaning; indicates basic understanding of conventions.

1 - Extremely Weak

Generally fails to communicate, illustrating SOME OR ALL of the following:

- Simply repeats the topic or fails to provide adequate development.
- If persuasive, fails to establish a position and/or develop view; evidence is not apparent.
- Shows almost no structure, organization, or coherence.
- Does not address the audience appropriately.
- Uses limited and/or immature sentence structure and word choice.
- Overwhelms the reader with serious violations of Standard English rules grammar, usage, and mechanics.

ADAPTED FROM NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION