

# Writing Assessment Rubric

This rubric asks you to identify features of the writing present in the sample. You should apply the numerical score based on degree of presence of the characteristic features. The writing features selected for the rubric are those most likely present in any disciplinary writing sample and represent a writing level expected of a senior-level college student.

Legend: N/A = Not Applicable  
 1 = few features are present  
 2 = features are not often present  
 3 = features are often present  
 4 = features are most always present

## CATEGORY

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

<b>Ideas/Critical Thinking/Synthesis</b> <i>The depth of sophistication of thoughts and ideas.</i> Features may include research, reasoning, evidence, detail, and development (appropriate to the field and genre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central subject or argument of the assignment is easily identified, clearly emphasized, consistent with the evidence, and intriguing</li> <li>• Reasoning is fully developed throughout the assignment with logical examples, details, and evidence where and as appropriate</li> <li>• Assignment contains information that addresses counterarguments, biases, or reader's expectations as appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>Style</b> <i>The choices the writer makes for specific audiences.</i> Features may include word choice, tone, and sentence length and structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained awareness of audience throughout the assignment</li> <li>• Writing tone suits the audience and enhances the assignment's purpose</li> <li>• Sentence structure varies according to the content, purpose, and audience</li> <li>• Sentences are consistently clear and logical</li> <li>• Word choice is appropriate to the writing task</li> </ul>
<b>Organization</b> <i>The coherence of the writing.</i> Features may include balance and ordering of ideas, flow, transition, and appropriate format (as defined in assignment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text is purposefully organized and substantially developed in a way that clarifies the argument and enhances style</li> <li>• Arrangement of ideas (overall structure) is clear, logical, and compelling as appropriate to the assignment; the reader moves through the text easily</li> <li>• Internal structure is cohesive and coherent; text flows and ideas are clearly and logically connected</li> <li>• Transitions used appropriately</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b> <i>Adherence to standard American edited English.</i> Features include grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and documentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar and mechanics support the reader's understanding of the writer's purpose without distracting errors</li> <li>• Documentation style is consistent, if appropriate to assignment</li> <li>• Sources, when appropriate, are effectively integrated into the body of the assignment</li> <li>• Minor errors do not interfere with readability or damage the writer's credibility (as appropriate to the assignment parameters)</li> </ul>