

7TH Grade Problem Solution Rubric

6 – Superior Paper

A **superior paper** commands attention because of its insightful development and mature style. It is clearly superior in every respect. The introductory paragraph immediately engages the readers' interest. The writer presents the problem fully so that readers will understand the nature and seriousness of the problem. In the discussion of the problem, the writer makes specific reference to the article through use of facts, statistics, or quotations. Some attempt is made to credit the source of the information used. The writer offers one or more solutions, but at least one of them is developed or elaborated fully. Writing strategies may include definition, description anecdote, causes or results, examples, statistics, and/or argument. The readers' possible objections to the solution are mentioned and the writer counters this with an explanation of why the solution should work. There is an effective conclusion. Characteristics of a 6 paper:

- Addresses the prompt with thoroughness and maturity
- Smooth and seamless organization; the introduction and the conclusion are equally effective
- Strong sense of voice
- Excellent vocabulary
- Strong spelling and usage
- Sophisticated and varied sentences

5 – Strong Paper

A **strong paper** is interesting and easy to read. The paragraphs are well developed. The paper is coherent; and extraneous details are too minor to distract. A five-point essay is engaging, energetic, and convincing. It lacks only the balance and force of a six-point essay. In the discussion of the problem, the writer uses information from the articles. There may be no attempt made to credit the source of the information, but it is not plagiarized (copied word for word). The reader's objections to the writer's solutions will be mentioned, but not as effectively countered as in the 6 paper. Characteristics of a 5 paper:

- Addresses the prompt with thoroughness
- Logical organization; the introduction and conclusion maybe not be equally effective
- Good sense of voice
- Strong vocabulary
- Good spelling and usage
- Fluent and clear sentences

4 – Adequate Paper

An **adequate paper** exhibits an acceptable level of writing competence, although it lacks the purposeful development or stylistic command of the 5 and 6 essays. Fewer strategies are employed. The writer identifies a problem and discusses it at least briefly. Facts from the article will be used but probably not extensively. A four-point essay will offer at least one moderately developed logical solution. The writer may address possible reader objections to solutions, but these may only be mentioned and not refuted. Some four-point essays may be quite engaging or convincing. Others may be matter of fact, not surprising or not especially convincing. Characteristics of a 4 paper:

- Addresses the prompt
- Organizational plan with some supportive detail; the introduction and conclusion are at least adequate
- Limited sense of voice
- Good vocabulary
- Minor spelling and usage errors
- Some sentence variety
- Control of sentence structure

3 – Minimal Paper

A **minimal paper** tends to be flat. Often this paper will seem to lack planning. Paragraphing may be generally weak. A three-point essay identifies a problem. The writer may list several relevant solutions, but at least one solution will be developed minimally. Characteristics of a **3** paper:

- Responds to the topic
- Unfocused or rambling organization
- Little or no sense of voice
- Imprecise vocabulary
- Occasional major OR frequent minor errors in spelling and usage
- An understanding of sentence structure despite some sentence errors

2 – Weak Paper

A **weak paper** may be sketchy and brief or fail to develop ideas. There may be great gaps and the essay may be difficult to follow. The writer mentions a problem, but may merely list solutions without support or argument. A two-point essay contains little or no argument. Characteristics of a **2** paper:

- Responds to or strays from the prompt
- Poor paragraphing and/or organization
- Simplistic vocabulary
- Frequent errors in spelling and usage interfere with understanding
- Lacks understanding of sentence structure; frequent run-ons and/or fragments

1 – Inadequate Paper

An **inadequate paper** suggests severe difficulties in reading and writing conventional English. The writing may be incoherent. The paper is usually very brief. Communication is severely impaired. Characteristics of a **1** paper:

- Touches on the prompt
- Lacks organization
- Limited vocabulary
- Frequent, serious errors in spelling, usage, and sentence structure

0 – Off Topic

Level 0

This paper is not on the topic assigned. The student wrote an entirely different essay, probably one which he/she had prepared ahead of time. A zero score is not the same as a one or two; it indicates that the student did not take the test as assigned.