

## EVALUATION RUBRIC (Grade 8)

### 6 - A Superior Paper

The writer of a 6 paper reveals both a strong voice and a strong sense of authority about the subject. In the introduction, a skillful, well-written judgment is expressed, identifying both topic and writer's opinion about it. There is a compelling introduction. In the body of the paper the writer offers reasons (or criteria) justifying the judgment, taking them one at a time and developing each fully. Various types of evidence offered may include personal experience, statistics or facts, expert opinion and textual reference, and comparison/contrast if appropriate to the prompt. The writer offers excellent analysis (commentary) of the specific evidence used. The paper is coherent, well-planned, convincing and engages the reader immediately. The paper ends with a satisfying, original conclusion. The writer shows reader awareness. Additional characteristics of a 6 paper:

- Smooth, seamless; appropriate, original transitions
- Sophisticated, varied sentences
- Precise vocabulary
- Sustained quality throughout

### 5 - A Strong Paper

The writer demonstrates a strong sense of authority about the topic. In the introduction, he/she offers a firm, clearly stated judgment which identifies both the topic and the writer's opinion about it. In the body of the paper, logical, appropriate reasons (or criteria) are offered to support the judgment. The writer uses a variety of evidence to support his/her opinion. Although the commentary offered may not show the degree of maturity and development of a 6 paper, it will still provide analysis. The paper is coherent, easy to read, shows a strong plan for organization and attempts to persuade. The paper may have either a stronger introduction or conclusion. The writer shows awareness of the reader and develops a convincing argument. Additional characteristics of a 5 paper:

- Logical organization with transitions
- Effective, varied sentences
- Strong vocabulary; sometimes "showy"

### 4 - An Adequate Paper

The writer of 4 shows some sense of authority. In the introduction, the writer identifies the topic and offers a firm judgment. Often the "opener" is very predictable; the writer's thesis sentence may be less skillfully written than in higher scoring papers. In the body, logical though predictable reasons (criteria) are offered to support the writer's judgment. The writer's analysis of the specific evidence offered may be thin or may be more a summary of the evidence than true analysis. The paper is focused and coherent throughout. Additional characteristics of a 4 paper:

- Clear though predictable organization; obvious transitions
- Appropriate although not dynamic word choice
- Some sentence variety evident

## Evaluation Rubric - Grade 8

### 3 - A Minimum Paper

The tone of a 3 paper may be unconvincing or unsure. While the thesis sentence may be vague, the writer still offers an opinion and at least one reason (criterion) to support it. Frequently the reason offered is not well-developed. Instead the writer may only list things offered as evidence with little or no elaboration. The types of reasons 3 writers offer are generally predictable and tend to be shallow. There may be no introduction or conclusion. In the body of the paper, the writer may occasionally lose coherence and struggle to sustain forward momentum. Additional characteristics of a 3 paper:

- Some sense of organization
- Predictable word choice
- Little sentence variety or simple sentences

### 2 - A Weak Paper

Some 2 papers are so troubled by issues of language that style is overshadowed. A judgment is stated but no reasons (criteria) may be offered. Instead the writer may simply describe the subject. Or, if reasons are offered, the evidence presented may be thinly developed, illogical or rambling. The body may lack coherence. 2 papers tend to be brief and sketchy. They often require reader interpretation to construct meaning. Additional characteristics of a 2 paper:

- Vague, confusing organization; may contain gaps
- Simplistic or inappropriate word choice
- Immature sentence patterns

### 1 - An Inadequate Paper

The writer may seem confused or unsure about the topic. Other 1 writers may simply state a topic but fail to make a judgment or make a judgment but no reasons offered in support. Writers of 1 papers may rely entirely on weak, generalized personal opinion. There is usually less coherence than a 2 paper. Writers of 1 papers may appear to be having problems with conventional English. Some 1 papers are so brief (3 or 4 sentences) that it is difficult to judge the writer's competency. Additional characteristics of a 1 paper:

- No apparent organization
- Limited or inappropriate word choice
- No sentence variety or clarity

### 0 - Off Topic

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