

Category	5	4	3	2
A. Response to Essay Question Writing Prompts (content)	Written response addresses essay prompt clearly and directly.	Written response mostly addresses the essay prompt clearly and directly.	Response to writing prompt is unclear or vague.	Response lacks any comprehension of the prompt or appears to address a different prompt.
B. Quality and Clarity of Thought (content)	Response indicates depth and complexity of thought in answering the essay question.	Response indicates simplistic or repetitive thoughts in answering the essay question.	Response lacks focus or demonstrates confused or conflicting thinking.	Response is unfocused, illogical or incoherent.
C. Organization & Development of Ideas (writing)	Response is well organized and developed with appropriate support to make meaning clear (well-chosen examples).	Response is organized and developed with general supporting ideas provided (reasons/general examples).	Response is fairly organized and developed, presenting generalizations without adequate support.	Response is disorganized and underdeveloped, providing little or no relevant support.

D. Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics (writing)	Response is free from any errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Response is mostly free from errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Response has several errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Response is mostly filled with errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
Max/Min # of words is met (following directions)	YES (elementary school - 250 to 500 Middle school - 500 High school - 650)			NO