

ESSAY RATING SHEET

Student _____ Reader _____

Scale for Writing Competence

Clarity, vocabulary, grammar

Writing is clear and precise with a broad vocabulary appropriately used and excellent grammatical usage.

Clarity is adequate, vocabulary good, and grammar correct.

Clarity of writing is generally adequate; vocabulary is somewhat limited, and minor errors in grammar and spelling are sometimes made.
tends

Writing is sometimes unclear with words at times used inappropriately and misspelled. Major grammatical errors are occasionally made.

Writing is often incoherent and disjointed. Vocabulary is extremely limited; many words are misused, and spelling is poor. Major grammatical errors are often made.

Organization and expression of ideas; style

Writing is well organized. Appropriate language is used to convey ideas. Style shows variety and imagination.

Writing is organized and ideas are clearly expressed. There are some indications of personal style.

Writing is organized, with most ideas clearly expressed, but on occasion the organization is not completely coherent and the language unconvincing. Style tends to be pedestrian.

Writing is hard to follow. Positions on issues are unclear because of poor expression of ideas. (Or problems of organization and expression are avoided through oversimplification.) Paper lacks style.

Writing leaves the reader confused. Organization is lacking, and language fails to communicate ideas.

TO READER: Above is a nine-point scale to use in judging writing competence. To the left, the scale has been defined in terms of clarity, vocabulary, and grammar; to the right, in terms of organization, expression of ideas, and style. You are to make one over-all judgment. Circle the number which best expresses your over-all judgment. Use the back of this sheet to make comments explaining your rating. It is important to make these comments to help the writer understand your rating and to help him/her improve.