

Assessment Rubric for Academic Writing

Use this rubric for the following types of writing: **Process Analysis** Essay, **Comparison and/or Contrast** Essay, **Cause/Effect** Essay, and **Definition** Essay



Stimulating Ideas

The writing . . .

- ___ focuses on an important subject (a process, a problem, a term to define) that meets the requirements of the assignment.
- ___ presents a clearly expressed thesis statement.
- ___ thoroughly informs readers.

Logical Organization

- ___ includes an interesting beginning, strong development, and an effective ending.
- ___ arranges ideas in a logical way (see *Writers, INC.* pg. 52)
- ___ uses transitions to link sentences and paragraphs (see Transitional Words handout)

Engaging Voice

- ___ speaks knowledgeably.
- ___ shows that the writer is truly interested in the subject

Original Word Choice

____ explains or defines any unfamiliar terms.

____ contains specific nouns and vivid verbs.

Effective Sentence Style

____ flows smoothly from one idea to the next.

____ shows variation in sentence structure.

Correct, Accurate Copy

____ adheres to the basic rules of writing

____ follows the appropriate formatting requirements for the assignment.

____ uses MLA for in-text citations and a Works Cited page if needed.