

English Rubric

	1	2	3	4
Autobiography	Less than 4 pages @ a basic level	4-5 pages @ a minimal level	6-7 pages @ a proficient level	8 pages @ a proficient level
Expository Paper	Less than 3 pages @ a basic level	3-4 pages @ a minimal level	4-5 pages @ a proficient level	At least 5 @ a proficient level
Ideas	Writer is still searching for a topic, brainstorming or has not decided what the main idea/genre will be	Information is limited or unclear or the length is inadequate for development of the topic	Inviting intro draws the reader in, satisfying conclusion leaves the reader w/sense of closure and resolution	Paper is clear and focused, holds the reader's attention, relevant details enrich the central theme
Voice	One or two details to surprise, delight, or move the reader, author is unconcerned about audience	Narrative writing seems sincere, but not passionate; expository or persuasive lacks consistent engagement w/topic	Writing communicates in an earnest, pleasing manner	Writer is fully engaged and involved, which results in a compelling paper
Closing	Closing restates position	Closing restates position and reviews some major points	Closing restates position, reviews major points, or encourages audience to take a specific action	Closing restates position, reviews major points, and encourages audience to take a specific action
Introduction	States a clear position	Stated a clear position, but either did not provide background or preview upcoming reasons	Stated a clear position, provided minimal background and previewed upcoming reasons	Stated a clear position, provided adequate background and previewed upcoming reasons
Citations & Bibliography	Included at least four varied sources w/no more than 2 errors in formatting	Included at least four varied sources with less than 2 errors in formatting	Included at least four varied sources with less than 2 errors in formatting; 1 primary source	Included more than four varied sources with less than 2 errors in formatting; at least 2 primary sources

Content		Writing lacks focus, incompletely developed & has few details – thesis is without direction or not evident – support for thesis is minimal or not evident	Writing may be focused but is only partially developed and lacks necessary details – thesis is present, but too broad or predictable supported by details which are too general, obvious or insufficient	Writing is focused well developed & enhanced by details – thesis is clear and concise and strongly supported by well-chosen & integrated details – ideas are engaging & sophisticated
Word Choice	Writer struggles with a limited vocabulary, searching for words to convey meaning (language is vague or boring)	Language is functional, even if it lacks energy; it is easy to figure out the writer's meaning on a general level	Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting way	Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting way; they are powerful and engaging
Multiple Perspectives	1 perspective identified	2 perspectives identified	2 perspectives identified & compared	More than 2 perspectives identified & compared
Accuracy	4 or more factual errors or significant inaccuracy in the major argument/ topic	3 minor factual errors or 1-2 significant inaccuracies in the major argument/topic	1 or 2 minor factual errors in the major argument/topic	No factual errors in the major argument / topic
Letter writing: business, friendly, request	Completed @ a basic level	Completed @ a minimal level	Completed @ a proficient level	Completed @ a proficient or advanced level

Organization		Introduction & conclusion are not present, transitions are nonexistent, organizational patterns haphazard & disjointed, paragraphing is not utilized or is misapplied	Introduction & conclusion are present, transitions are present but common, inappropriate, or excessive, organizational patterns: present but predictable; paragraphing is not consistently natural and appropriate	Supports central idea (thesis), order and structure move the reader through the text easily, interesting introduction draws reader into the paper & satisfying conclusion leaves reader w/sense of resolution; smooth effective transitions (sentences, paragraphs, & ideas)
Sentence Structure	Sentence structure is non-existent, mostly phrases as if still in note form	Writing moves awkwardly, sentences tend to be choppy, incomplete, or rambling; sentence rhythm is clumsy and jarring	Writing moves mechanically; writer shows control over simple sentence structure, but uses complex sentences infrequently; sentence rhythm is attempted but inconsistent	Varied sentence structure & length demonstrates conscious planning; sentences are rhythmic and graceful
Vocabulary & Spelling: 10 words / week	<70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%
Poetry	Creates at one style of poetry @ a basic level	Creates 2 different styles of poetry @ a basic or minimal level	Creates 3 different styles of poetry @ a proficient level	Creates at least 3 different styles of poetry @ a proficient or advanced level
Developing the Topic (research paper, autobiography)	Fairly broad; reader can see where the writer is headed	Ideas are reasonably clear, may not be detailed, personalized & accurate	Reasonably accurate details are present to support the main ideas	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable