## Writing Sample Rubric

### Structure
- **Organization, flow, format**
  - Response to prompt is well thought out and thoughts clearly developed
  - Logical presentation
  - Paper flows, is easy to read, and easy to follow writers thoughts
  - Organized, professional presentation

### Grammar/Mechanics
- **Sentence structure, punctuation/mechanics**
  - Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors

### Language
- **Use of vocabulary, tone of paper**
  - Vocabulary and word choice is varied, specific, and appropriate
  - Tone is evident and is generally appropriate

### Content/Organization
- **Clarity, original thought, use of examples**
  - Addresses the prompt in a well thought out and developed way
  - Purpose/message is clear throughout the entire response
  - Writing shows a clear message
  - Writing is focused and tight

### Levels
- **4**
  - Response to prompt is well thought out and thoughts clearly developed
  - Logical presentation
  - Paper flows, is easy to read, and easy to follow writers thoughts
  - Organized, professional presentation
  - High-level use of vocabulary and word choice
  - Vocabulary is used correctly and shows advanced use of language
  - Sentences vary in structure and length and show advanced use of language
  - Tone is clear, consistent and appropriate

- **3**
  - Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors
  - Vocabulary and word choice is varied, specific, and appropriate
  - Tone is evident and is generally appropriate
  - The prompt is addressed generally throughout the paper
  - Purpose/message is generally clear
  - Evidence of a critical, clear message
  - Writing is good and relevant but lacks focus on the prompt

- **2**
  - Response is difficult to follow
  - Some level of organization though digresses from prompt; response is irrelevant or ambiguous
  - Difficulty to follow, lack of flow, response not clearly communicated to reader
  - Writing rambles, lacks professional presentation
  - Low-level use of vocabulary and word choice
  - Vocabulary is used correctly
  - Tone shows some level of appropriateness but lacks consistency
  - Response is expressed in a vague, unfocused way.
  - Lacks clear sense of purpose in the response
  - Some evidence of critical, clear message though the response is very general in scope not specific to prompt

- **1**
  - More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors
  - Vocabulary lacks sophistication
  - Poor vocabulary and/or word choice
  - Vocabulary is used incorrectly
  - Tone is inappropriate for the writing sample
  - Response does not address the prompt
  - Little or no evidence to demonstrate a sense of purpose in response
  - No clear message or critical thought in response to prompt

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Rubric adapted from “Evaluating a College Writing Sample Rubric” [University of Colorado Denver Center for Faculty Development](https://www.colorado.edu/faculty-development/evaluating-college-writing-sample-rubric)