CRITERIA	Advanced:	Proficient	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Comments
	thorough, effective	Sufficient, Satisfactory	Adequate, Passable	Incomplete, ineffective	
Completion/Meaning	The essay thoroughly, thoughtfully	The essay thoroughly and thoughtfully	The essay responds to the prompt	The essay is somewhat off topic or is	
	and creatively responds to the	responds to the prompt without going off	without going off topic or being	not thoroughly answered. It might be	
	prompt without going off topic or	topic or getting repetitive. –The answer to	repetitive. –The answer to "Why admit	repetitive and conventional. The answer	
	getting repetitive.	"Why admit me?" is thoughtful without	me?" makes sense and isn't repetitive.	to "Why admit me?" isn't satisfactory or	
	The answer to "why admit me?" is	being repetitive.		thoughtful. It might be repetitive.	
	thoughtful and "deep" and is not				
	repetitive.				
Organization	Excellent organization & transitions;	Good organization and transitions; material	Organization works but may have small	Little to no organization and/or	
	material builds up and finished	is all related and answers the questions "so	issues like transitions. Material is all	transitions. Reader is confused. Ideas	
	strongly.	what".	related but may not build to strong	are hard to follow; Inappropriate	
			conclusion.	format.	
Fluency	Paragraphs and sentences "flow" well—	Paragraphs and sentences work well together,	Paragraphs or sentences move the point	Sentences are difficult to read and do not	
	with one idea leading to the next in	with ideas moving along well. Word choice is	along but might be too wordy or too choppy.	move forward/transition well. Writing	
	logical manner. Word choice is	interesting; few sentences are awkward.	Many awkward sentences or bland sentence	includes fragments or run-ons. Many	
	engaging and interesting. No awkward	Includes a variety of sentences lengths or	structures. Some word choices are also	awkward sentences and word choices.	
	sentences. Includes a variety of	types.	awkward.	Difficult to read and comprehend in places.	
	sentence lengths and types.				
Style/Voice/word choice	A consistent voice that is appropriate	Paper reads will with developing style and	Wordiness, clichés, and/or vagueness	No distinguishable voice or	
	for the paper's meaning and engages	voice.	sometimes muffle the voice. Tone is	forced/unnatural voice.	
	the reader. The essay has		inconsistent or word choice awkward.		
	personality.				
Grammar, Punctuation	Advanced traditional grammar and	Surface errors are minimal and do not	Frequent grammar, spelling and/or	Surface problems are so frequent they	
etc	mechanics, except when	detract from meaning and readability	punctuation errors clutter paper's	obscure meaning. Many sentences are	
	irregularities (like fragments) are		surface. Some sentences may be	poorly structured.	
	used for special effects.		awkward.		

CRITERIA	Advanced:	Proficient	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Comments
	thorough, effective	Sufficient, Satisfactory	Adequate, Passable	Incomplete, ineffective	
Completion/Meaning	The essay thoroughly, thoughtfully and creatively responds to the prompt without going off topic or getting repetitive. The answer to "why admit me?" is thoughtful and "deep" and is not repetitive.	The essay thoroughly and thoughtfully responds to the prompt without going off topic or getting repetitive. —The answer to "Why admit me?" is thoughtful without being repetitive.	The essay responds to the prompt without going off topic or being repetitive. –The answer to "Why admit me?" makes sense and isn't repetitive.	The essay is somewhat off topic or is not thoroughly answered. It might be repetitive and conventional. The answer to "Why admit me?" isn't satisfactory or thoughtful. It might be repetitive.	
Organization	Excellent organization & transitions; material builds up and finished strongly.	Good organization and transitions; material is all related and answers the questions "so what".	Organization works but may have small issues like transitions. Material is all related but may not build to strong conclusion.	Little to no organization and/or transitions. Reader is confused. Ideas are hard to follow; Inappropriate format.	
Fluency	Paragraphs and sentences "flow" well—with one idea leading to the next in logical manner. Word choice is engaging and interesting. No awkward sentences. Includes a variety of sentence lengths and types.	Paragraphs and sentences work well together, with ideas moving along well. Word choice is interesting; few sentences are awkward. Includes a variety of sentences lengths or types.	Paragraphs or sentences move the point along but might be too wordy or too choppy. Many awkward sentences or bland sentence structures. Some word choices are also awkward.	Sentences are difficult to read and do not move forward/transition well. Writing includes fragments or run-ons. Many awkward sentences and word choices.  Difficult to read and comprehend in places.	
Style/Voice/word choice	A consistent voice that is appropriate for the paper's meaning and engages the reader. The essay has personality.	Paper reads will with developing style and voice.	Wordiness, clichés, and/or vagueness sometimes muffle the voice. Tone is inconsistent or word choice awkward.	No distinguishable voice or forced/unnatural voice.	
Grammar, Punctuation etc	Advanced traditional grammar and mechanics, except when irregularities (like fragments) are used for special effects.	Surface errors are minimal and do not detract from meaning and readability	Frequent grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors clutter paper's surface. Some sentences may be awkward.	Surface problems are so frequent they obscure meaning. Many sentences are poorly structured.	