

CRITERIA	Advanced: thorough, effective	Proficient Sufficient, Satisfactory	Acceptable Adequate, Passable	Not Acceptable Incomplete, ineffective	Comments
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 well 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.	

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