

English Department 2000-Level Assessment Rubric

Score the essay with a “4” if it

Organization

- Flows well and makes sense
- Has a clear thesis
- Includes a well-developed line of argument
- Uses strong supporting details

Mechanics

- Uses MLA formatting and citation practices well, when appropriate
- Is error-free in grammar or mechanics

Overall impression

The student will be able to excel in junior-level academic writing. The topic’s significance is clear to the reader.

Score the essay with a “3” if it

Organization

- Flows well and makes sense
- Has a clear thesis
- Includes a line of argument
- Develops details to support the thesis

Mechanics

- Uses MLA formatting and citation practices well, when appropriate
- Contains few (no more than 3) errors in grammar or mechanics

Overall impression

The student will be able to succeed in junior-level academic writing. The writer can show the significance of the topic.

Score the essay with a “2” if it

Organization

- Lacks flow and cohesion
- Has a weak or trite thesis
- Attempts a line of argument, but fails to support it

Mechanics

- Confuses MLA formatting and citation practices
- Contains significant errors in grammar or mechanics

Overall impression

The student will not succeed in junior-level academic writing. The reader will have a difficult time understanding the paper’s significance.

Score the essay with a “1” if it

Organization

- Lacks flow and cohesion
- Has a weak or trite thesis
- Includes no line of argument or support

Mechanics

- Confuses MLA formatting and citation practices
- Contains significant errors in grammar or mechanics

Overall impression

The student will not succeed in junior-level academic writing. Errors and lack of cohesion impede the reader’s ability to make meaning.