

NEW VISIONS APPLICATION: ESSAY RESPONSE RUBRIC (Both Essays)

CATEGORY	Below Standard	Approaching Standard	At Standard	Above Standard
Purpose/Prompt	-Response's focus is unclear and/or off topic. -Response does not address prompt.	-Response's focus is somewhat unclear or off topic. -Minor digressions from focus of prompt.	-Response has a clear prompt-appropriate focus.	-Response has a clear, specific, prompt-appropriate focus.
Organization	-The structure of the response does not establish a connection between ideas/events. -Transitions are non-existent. -The reader cannot follow the response because it lacks unity and detail.	-The structure establishes some relationship between ideas/events. -Transitions are minimal. -The reader may struggle to follow the response.	-The structure establishes clear relationship(s) between ideas/events. -Transitions are used but may be inconsistent or lack clarity. -The reader can follow the response, but at times response may lack details.	-The structure establishes clear relationship(s) between events/ideas. -Transitions are used intentionally and help clarify the order of events/ideas. -The reader can easily and consistently follow the response.
Language Use	-Writer uses basic, cliché or very unclear language choices that give no voice to the response.	-Writer uses somewhat cliché or unclear language choices that make the writer's voice bland, generic or stereotypical.	-Writer uses effective language choices that make the writer's voice personal and honest.	-Writer uses intentional and vivid language choices that make writer's voice rich, personal and distinctive.
Tone	-Writer's tone and/ or details present the writer as an undesirable candidate for admission.	-Writer comes across inconsistently to the essay's target audience. -Essay's tone and/or details could cast the writer as a less-than-desirable candidate for admission.	-Writer comes across appropriately to the essay's target audience. -Essay uses appropriate tone and details to present writer as appropriate candidate for admission.	-Writer comes across appropriately to the essay's target audience. -Essay uses creative and appealing tone and details to present writer as compelling candidate for admission.
Grammar, Usage, Mechanics	-Response exhibits little to no control of grammatical conventions appropriate to the writing task: sentence formation; standard usage including agreement, tense and case; and mechanics.	-Response exhibits some control of grammatical conventions appropriate to the writing task: sentence formation; standard usage including agreement, tense and case; and mechanics.	-Response exhibits control of grammatical conventions appropriate to the writing task: sentence formation; standard usage including agreement, tense and case; and mechanics.	-Response exhibits careful and consistent control of grammatical conventions appropriate to the writing task: standard usage including agreement, tense and case; and mechanics.

Adopted 2024-2025

