

Writing Rubrics: Grade 8

Focus

Definition: To select one specific moment or idea and to develop just this moment or idea in your writing.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 140 words AND almost all sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 105 words AND most sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND some sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND almost none of the sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

Use of Evidence

Definition: Selecting and describing quoted or paraphrased details from a text to develop and support an idea.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 140 words AND student describes what he or she notices in almost all of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 105 words AND student describes what he or she notices in most of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND student describes what he or she notices in some of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND student describes what he or she notices in almost none of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

Conventions

Definition: Conventions are the grammar and sentence mechanics skills that enable a writer to control the clarity and emphasis of a sentence.

Note: Writing in complete sentences is one of the most useful tools when working to master conventions.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Almost all sentences are complete and punctuated correctly.

3 PROFICIENT

Most sentences are complete and punctuated correctly. Errors might distract the reader, but do not impede the reader's ability to understand the writing.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Most sentences are complete. Errors DO impede the reader's ability to understand the writing.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

There are many fragments and/or run-ons that prevent the reader from understanding the writing.