

Mid-Term EVALUATION RUBRIC

Student _____ Date _____ Period ___ Teacher _____

In order for a writer to attain the highest possible grade in an argument/essay/response, *all* of the following criteria must be met:

1. **___ FOCUS:** The essay/response must be clearly focused on the subject of the prompt/task. It must reflect (1) the writer understands that the essay/response should be focused on *one activity*, and (2) that the writer understands the prompt/task specifically asks for a *personal opinion*.
2. **___ ORGANIZATION:** The organization of the essay/response progresses logically through *three sources of support*, and that such an *organizational plan* is *clearly outlined* by the writer *in the first paragraph*.
3. **___ TRANSITIONS:** The writer uses the first sentence of each body paragraph as a transition into each reason given as support for his/her opinion. In addition, the writer employs *transitional words* to signal the connections between and among sentences, as well as to help develop the argument of the reason given in that paragraph.
4. **___ SUPPORT:** The support of the body paragraphs is substantial: In each paragraph the writer gives (1) a *specific example* of support for his/her opinion, and (2) many *specific details* that are *directly related* to the subject of the prompt/task.
5. **___ PERSONAL DETAILS:** The writer's commitment to the subject shows in the many personal examples. The essay/response is about the writer's personal experiences/opinions/views. It uses some attention-grabbing strategies; including beginning the essay/response with a "hook" in order to immediately engage the reader's attention.
6. **___ WORD CHOICE:** The writer should use language that is *mature* and *appropriate* for the prompt/task.
7. **___ SENTENCE STRUCTURE:** Sentence structure should be *varied* throughout the essay/response; the *writer should not begin every other sentence with the same word*, be it noun or pronoun, unless it is used sparingly for emphasis. Errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, or spelling should not be excessive or frustrate the reader's ability to understand the argument.

An essay/response which lacks obvious transitional devices may not receive a score above a "D".

Grading Scale:

- 7 points = A
- 6 points = B
- 5 points = C
- 4 points = D
- 3 points or less = F

Total points _____ Grade _____