

Merrol Hyde Magnet School Writing Rubric

Student Name _____

Date _____

Subject _____

| Category | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Introduction (Organization) | The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper. | The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. | The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. | There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Focus on Topic (Content) | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Capitalization & Punctuation (Conventions) | Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read. | Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read. | Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow. | Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Grammar & Spelling (Conventions) | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Word Choice | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced. | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone. | Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair. | Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Conclusion (Organization) | The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at." | The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends. | The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends. | There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |
| Penmanship (Conventions) | Paper is neatly written or typed with no distracting corrections. | Paper is neatly written or typed with 1 or 2 distracting corrections (e.g., dark cross-outs; bumpy whiteout, words written over). | The writing is generally readable, but the reader has to exert quite a bit of effort to figure out some of the words. | Many words are unreadable OR there are several distracting corrections. | Insufficient writing to meet criteria. |

Total Score _____