Grading Criteria Used to Evaluate Essays Written for Writing Proficiency Program Assessments.

Readers will use the following criteria to evaluate your Writing Proficiency essay(s):

ARGUMENT AND JUDGMENT

The Essay

- Addresses the prompt.
- Communicates a focused purpose to an academic audience.
- Constructs a well-developed and coherent argument.
- Provides appropriate support for judgments.
- Gives appropriate consideration to alternative perspectives or evidence.
- Successfully interprets purpose(s) and focus of the article.
- Engages challenging ideas in the article.
- Demonstrates how knowledge gained from the article supports judgments.
- Does not dismiss evidence provided in the article without adequate justification.

WRITING SKILLS

The Essay

- Appropriately introduces the reader to the main idea.
- Includes final paragraph(s) that provide(s) closure consistent with the main idea.

Its paragraphs:

- Use content which consistently supports the thesis or main idea.
- Signal new ideas, sub-ideas, or emphases.
- Consistently maintain relationships or connections between the ideas they develop.
- Are developed enough to consistently keep readers focused on the thesis or main idea.

Its sentences:

- Within each paragraph connect clearly and consistently to the main emphasis of the paragraph.
- Develop relevant ideas by building on content from preceding sentences.
- Within each paragraph connect clearly to the meaning of sentences that come before and after.
- Use relevant diction and stylistic conventions appropriate for junior-level university writers.
- Are free of spelling errors which consistently distract the reader.

- Are free of grammatical errors which consistently distract the reader.