

NCOA Essay Submission Grading Rubric

GRADED CRITERIA	Exceeded Standard 4	Achieved the Standard 3	Marginally Achieved Standard 2	Failed to meet Standard 1	STUDENT SCORE
Content and Development	Essay has a concise and compelling idea that is clearly stated in the opening paragraph; appropriate, concrete details support the central idea and show originality and focus.	The central idea of the essay is clear; the essay contains details to support the central idea; some originality.	The central idea of the essay is clear; the essay contains a detail that supports the central idea.	The central idea of the essay is lacking; no originality; no details.	
Organization	Essay is logically organized and well-structured, displaying a beginning, a body, and a conclusion; critical thinking skills are evident.	Essay remains focused around central idea; the ideas rationally follow each other.	Essay somewhat digresses from central idea; the ideas do not logically follow each other; paragraphs separate ideas.	Central point of the essay is lost; lacks organization and continuity, though there is substance.	
Evidence and Support	Cited research information or shared personal experiences; introduced innovative, personal ideas to enhance essay cohesiveness.	Some research of the topic was done but was inconclusive to support the central idea; cited information was vague.	Did little or no gathering of information on the topic; failed to cite information.	No research on this topic was done.	
Style and Structure	Writing is smooth, coherent, and consistent with central idea; sentences are strong and expressive, with varied structure; phraseology is consistent and words well chosen.	Sentences are varied and somewhat inconsistent with central idea; vocabulary and word choices are good, though there are minor corrections and room for improvement.	Writing lacks creativity and focus; word choice lacks relation to central idea; phraseology is inconsistent.	Writing is confusing and hard to follow; contains fragments and/or run-on sentences; inappropriate terminology used.	
Mechanics	Writing has no errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and capitalization. Less than 10% of the essay contains quoted material.	Writing is relatively free of errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and capitalization. More than 10% but less than 15% of the essay contains quoted material.	Writing has several errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and capitalization. More than 15% of the essay contains quoted material.	Writing has serious and persistent errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and capitalization. Essay contains excessive quoting.	
Attention to detail	Essay has the correct cover sheet provided on BB; Essay is written in APA format; Essay is double spaced and in Times New Roman 12 point font; Word count is equal to or greater than 1,250.	Essay lacks one of the detailed requirements listed in block 4.	Essay lacks 2-3 of the detailed requirements listed in block 4.	Essay lacks all of the detailed requirements listed in block 4.	
					FINAL SCORE