

Academic Pentathlon Rubric

Part 1- Content, Organization, Focus, and Development. (80%)

Excellent- Score 16-20 pts.

The essay clearly defines the quote and has a very strong introduction and conclusion. The supporting paragraphs clearly support the main idea of the essay and contain a strong introduction, clear, distinct, and appropriate supporting details, and a strong conclusion. The author has a clear and unique voice, and the examples are distinctly different from each other, yet support the main idea.

Good- Score 13-15 pts.

The essay effectively addresses the quote. The introduction and conclusion are strong and the supporting paragraphs are appropriate. There is a clear theme running throughout the essay, but some of the details and focus may not be as strong as they could be. The author makes a clear connection between the examples and the quote. The author's voice is clear, but not as strong as in the excellent category.

Average- Score 10-12 pts.

The essay defines the quote and has an introduction and conclusion that address the main idea. The supporting paragraphs are on topic, but some of the details may be rather general and not exactly focused. You can tell what the author is trying to say, but the way they say it may be a bit awkward or not clear in a few places. The author makes a limited connection between the examples and the quote

Needs Improvement- Score 7-9 pts.

This essay follows the format correctly and addresses the topic in a basic manner.. The examples are generally on topic, but some of the supporting details are weak, confusing, or not appropriate. The author does not clearly connect the examples to the main idea of the essay. The author's voice may be somewhat weak. This score would also be appropriate if all of the supporting paragraphs were very similar to each other, or when the author correctly elaborates on the topic without using specific details.

Poor- Score 4-6 pts.

This essay addresses the quote in a very basic manner. The introduction, conclusion, and examples are weak, and they only relate to the quote in a very general manner. The author does not explain how the examples relate to the quote, or the explanation is very general or not appropriate. This essay is not focused, and it may go into too much detail about the examples without relating them to the main idea of the essay. The organization of this essay is weak and confusing, often leaving the reader confused as to the point the author is making.

Very Poor- Score 0-3 pts.

This essay is off topic, short, confusing, and lacks any real sort of organization.

Part 2- Language, Style, and Conventions (20%)

Excellent- Score 5

This essay contains a variety of sentence structures (simple, compound, and complex) with few or no errors. The author uses precise and accurate word choices with few or no errors in spelling, usage, agreement, and mechanics.

Good- Score 4

This essay contains a variety of sentence types with only a few minor errors. The author uses appropriate word choices, and has only a few mistakes in spelling, usage, agreement, and mechanics.

Average- Score 3

This essay uses some different sentence types with a few mistakes in sentence structure, but these do not generally interfere with the reader's comprehension. The author may have some precise word choices, but they generally use weaker, more general vocabulary. There are some errors in spelling, usage, agreement, and mechanics.

Needs Improvement- Score 2

The author has some problems with their sentence structure. They may have some run-on sentences or sentence fragments. The author uses less varied sentence types and vocabulary. The author tends to use weak verbs and adjectives, and these tend to be frequently repeated. There are several mistakes in spelling, usage, agreement, and mechanics. The mistakes may cause some confusion with the reader's understanding of the author's ideas.

Poor- Score 1

The author has many significant mistakes in sentence structure, spelling, usage, agreement and mechanics. These mistakes significantly interfere with the reader's comprehension.

Very Poor- Score 0

The author has severe problems with sentence structure, word choice, spelling, usage, agreement, and mechanics. These mistakes make it very difficult to comprehend the author's message.