

TEACHER RUBRIC

Category	Exemplary	Masterful	Progressing	Not at Standard
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay sustains focus, clarity, and alignment with the main idea • Essay takes a unique and creative approach to shaping the main idea <p>9–10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay sustains clarity and a focus that is mostly aligned with the main idea • Essay shapes the main idea with a clear approach <p>8 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay’s main idea is a little unclear or lacks relevance; not always focused or sometimes goes off topic • Essay shapes main idea, but approach is unclear or overused <p>7 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay is unfocused, main idea is not obvious, and/or frequently goes off topic • Essay does not have a clear approach to shaping the main idea <p>6 or fewer points</p>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative is clearly developed and focused on scene, summary, or both (if appropriate) • Writing is descriptive, with the right balance of details (not too obvious, not too opaque) <p>9–10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative is clearly focused on either scene or summary, but choice may not be right for topic • Essay is well integrated and understandable, but sometimes has too much or too little detail <p>8 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clear focus on either scene or summary, so narrative is not well developed • Essay is somewhat integrated and understandable, but often has too many details, or often lacks enough detail for reader to comprehend it <p>7 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay rambles without focus or narrative structure • Essay is not integrated into an understandable whole; too many details overwhelm the reader, or too few make it difficult to follow <p>6 or fewer points</p>
Persona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay’s tone is clear, and details present writer as an excellent potential addition to an academic community <p>9–10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay’s tone is somewhat clear, and details present writer as a good potential addition to an academic community <p>8 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay’s tone contains discrepancies, and details present writer as a possible potential addition to an academic community <p>7 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay’s tone and details present writer as an inappropriate addition to an academic community <p>6 or fewer points</p>

Category	Exemplary	Masterful	Progressing	Not at Standard
Language Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer’s word choices help achieve the essay’s purpose by creating a singular, unique, sincere, and personal voice, without resorting to clichés or lazy writing <p>9–10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer makes considered and powerful word choices, mostly avoiding clichés and ambiguity, to advance the essay’s purpose <p>8 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer sometimes chooses clichéd or unclear language, making their essay somewhat tedious and ordinary, and not advancing the essay’s purpose <p>7 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer chooses clichéd, overused language, making their essay boring, stale, and indistinguishable from many others <p>6 or fewer points</p>
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure clearly connects ideas and events, and logically transitions from one event to the next <p>4.5–5 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure connects ideas and events, but may be lacking some transitions between events <p>4.0–4.4 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure has some connections between ideas and events, and may be lacking transitions between events <p>3.5–3.9 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure does not connect ideas to events, and there are no transitions between events <p>3.4 or fewer points</p>
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer shows <i>excellent</i> control of grammatical rules: sentence structure, subject/verb agreement, tense and case, and mechanics Essay’s citations, formatting, and pagination follow MLA style <p>4.5–5 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer shows <i>good</i> control of grammatical rules: sentence structure, subject/verb agreement, tense and case, and mechanics Essay’s citations, formatting, and pagination follow MLA style, with one or two minor errors <p>4.0–4.4 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer shows <i>some</i> control of grammatical rules: sentence structure, subject/verb agreement, tense and case, and mechanics Essay’s citations, formatting, and pagination partially follow MLA style, with one or two major errors <p>3.5–3.9 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer shows <i>little</i> control of grammatical rules: sentence structure, subject/verb agreement, tense and case, and mechanics Essay’s citations, formatting, and pagination do not follow MLA style, or have three or more major errors <p>3.4 or fewer points</p>

Score = _____/50 pts. = _____%

Adapted from: Chandler Unified School District. (n.d.). College Application Essay Rubric, AP English 12. <https://bit.ly/46Asvvg>