# Writing Assessment Rubric

This rubric asks you to identify features of the writing present in the sample. You should *apply the numerical score based on degree of presence* of the characteristic features. The writing features selected for the rubric are those most likely present in any disciplinary writing sample and represent a writing level expected of a senior-level college student.

Legend: 4 = features are most always present
3 = features are often present
2 = features are not often present
1 = few features are present

| CATEGORY | CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES |
|---|---|
| **Content Development**<br>*The writer's depth of sophistication in thoughts and ideas.* Features may include reasoning, evidence, detail, development, and research appropriate to the field and genre. | • Assignment follows the instructions provided by the instructor for the overall purpose and intended audience<br>• Central subject or argument of the assignment is easily identified, clearly emphasized, consistent with the evidence, and intriguing, as appropriate<br>• Reasoning is fully developed throughout the assignment with logical examples, details, and evidence where and as appropriate<br>• Sources, when appropriate, are effectively integrated to support the argument<br>• Assignment contains information that addresses counterarguments, biases, or reader's expectations, as appropriate |
| **Organization of Ideas**<br>*How the writer shows coherence and readability in the order of thoughts and ideas.* Features may include the overall structure of ideas, thoughtful paragraphing, logical flow, and effective transitions. | • Text is purposefully organized and substantially developed in a way that clarifies the argument and enhances style<br>• Arrangement of ideas (overall structure) is clear, logical, and compelling as appropriate to the assignment, allowing the reader to move through the text easily<br>• Internal structure is cohesive and coherent; text flows and ideas are clearly and logically connected<br>• Sentence structure varies according to the content, purpose, and audience (flow)<br>• Sentences are consistently clear and logical (transitions) |
| **Style & Correctness**<br>*The choices the writer makes for specific audiences.* Features may include tone, word choice, sentence structure, and errors. | • Writing tone suits the audience and enhances the assignment's purpose<br>• Word choice is appropriate to the writing task and intended audience<br>• Writing is accurate, concise, and appropriate for audience<br>• Grammar and mechanics support the reader's understanding without distracting errors |
| **Design & Conventions**<br>*How the writer chooses to present the information on the page.* Features may include document design and appropriate and expected format and conventions for the genre. | • Writing is well-designed on the page to ensure readability<br>• Visual layout and design features are consistent throughout the document<br>• Format is appropriate as defined by the assignment and expected genre conventions (e.g., Does a report look like a report?)<br>• Sources, when appropriate, are cited correctly according to documentation guidelines (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) |