

Youth Christian School

Rubric for Formal Writing

90 - 100

This essay demonstrates mastery of Standard American Written English. The student writes sentences that range from the compound/complex to the simple structure when appropriate. The student exhibits a command of the connotation and denotation of words. The student avoids using first and second person points of view and/or over-used expressions such as “I believe” or “This paper is going to” or “In my opinion” that detract from the overall focus of the essay. The student makes almost no spelling errors, grammatical mistakes, or syntax breakdowns. Most importantly, the student goes beyond the norm in his or her analysis of the subject matter and brings a new and fresh interpretation to the text or topic.

89 - 80

The student almost meets the requirements for the 90-100 range; however, the essay has a few spelling and grammar errors, and does not quite achieve the level of mastery as the 90-100 range.

79 - 70

The student is marked down for awkwardly constructed sentences, poor word choice, and errors in grammar usage. The student consistently relies on cliché phrases and shows little creative thought in the interpretation of the text or topic. However, the student does demonstrate a basic understanding of the text or topic.

69 - 60

This student’s essay is generally not well thought out. It is usually too short for any real development of ideas or points of support. This student’s essay has so many errors that it interferes with the reader’s understanding of the content.

59 - 0

This student’s essay can be off topic, too short, full of mistakes whether they be grammar, syntax, spelling, connotation or denotation of words, and/or cliché phrases that detract from any possible understanding of the meaning.