

Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Rubric

From the PDE September 9, 1999

	Focus	Content	Organization	Style	Conventions
1. Novice	Minimal evidence of a topic was exhibited	The presence of ideas developed are superficial and of minimal content	There is minimal control of the content arrangement.	Minimal choice and use of words and sentence structures to create tone and voice.	Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, and sentence formation.
2. Basic	There was no apparent controlling point but there was evidence of a specific topic.	The ideas developed are of minimal content and/or inadequate elaboration or explanation.	Confused or inconsistent arrangement of content with or without attempts at transition.	Limited word choice and control of sentence structures that inhibit voice and tone.	Limited control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, and sentence formation.
3. Proficient	There was an apparent controlling point made about a single topic with sufficient awareness of the task (mode).	The ideas are sufficiently developed with adequate elaboration and explanation.	Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions.	Generic use of a variety of words and sentence structures that may or may not create voice and tone appropriate for the audience.	Sufficient control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation.
4. Advanced	There was a sharp, distinct controlling point made about a single topic with evident awareness of the task (mode).	There is substantial, specific and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development and sophisticated ideas.	Sophisticated arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions.	Precise, illustrative use of a variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent voice and tone for the audience.	Precise control of grammar, mechanics, usage, spelling and sentence formation.