

ASSESSMENT 1: HOMELAND SECURITY RAILROAD SECURITY PLAN

<i>Rubric</i>	Historical significance of the Horseshoe Curve	Strategic importance	Security measures	Writing Style
Advanced	Cites several (3 or more) specific facts and statistics for historical significance of the Altoona Curve. These are stated clearly, and organized logically. Student clearly demonstrates an understanding of The Curve's importance.	Security Plan includes a cogent discussion of the strategic importance of railroads, specifically The Curve. Student shows a complex and comprehensive understanding of why a terrorist might target these areas. Students should include reasons from multiple subject areas—geography, engineering, economics, etc.	Plan includes specific and creative ideas for improving security in vulnerable areas. Student logically pairs vulnerable area with potential security solution. Plan also includes details such as specific security organizations/agencies with whom to work, methods of carrying out security measures, and communications necessary for this plan of action to be successful. Thoroughly and creatively designed.	The plan is written convincingly—with a logical progression of information. (For instance, the historical and strategic importance of The Curve is discussed before possible security measures are offered as a solution.) General ideas are backed up by creative, specific examples. Plan has an introduction, middle, and ending. Excellent paragraph construction; impeccable grammar and spelling.
Proficient	Cites a few specific references to historical significance. References may be more general and not as clearly organized.	The security plan cites general references to strategic importance. These are accurate, but do not demonstrate the student has combined knowledge from various subject to inform his/her answer.	The plan provides several security measures. They are appropriate, but perhaps less creative, specific, and thoroughly designed.	The plan is written convincingly—with a logical progression of information. General ideas are backed up by examples. Plan has an introduction, middle, and conclusion. Proficient paragraph construction; grammar and spelling have minor mistakes.
Basic	References to historical significance are few. They are not convincingly stated. They may include factual errors.	Strategic importance is discussed in the security plan. Information is general and unorganized.	The plan provides a few general security measures. They do not begin to answer specific vulnerability issues, and are not very thought-out.	The plan is not very convincing. General ideas are given, but not backed up by examples. Plan has an introduction, middle, and conclusion. Basic paragraph/sentence construction; several grammar and spelling errors noted.
Below Basic	Historical significance is incorrect. OR No historical significance is indicated.	Strategic importance cited is incorrect and confusingly compiled. OR Plan lacks a description of the strategic importance.	The plan suggests inappropriate security measures, OR does not address this topic at all.	The plan is not convincing. General ideas are given, but are confusing or inappropriate. Plan lacks structure of introduction, middle, and conclusion. Needs improvement on paragraph/sentence construction; numerous grammar and spelling errors noted.