

National Rural Education Essay Rubric for Written Essay

Category	4	3	2	1	Total Points
Focus on topic (content)	There is one clear, well focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information in the essay.	Main idea is clear, but the supporting information is general.	Main idea is somewhat clear, but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is seemingly random collection of information.	
Accuracy of facts (Content)	All supportive facts are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts are reported accurately.	No facts are reported or most are inaccurate.	
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and previews the structure of the essay.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the essay, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the essay nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the essay.	
Sequencing (Organization)	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way they are presented sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order and this distracts the reader from the essay.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is well organized.	
Flow & rhythm (sentence fluency)	All sentences sound natural and are easy to understand when read aloud. Each sentence is	Almost all sentences sound natural and are easy to understand when read aloud, but 1 or	Most sentences sound natural and are easy to understand when read aloud, but several are	The sentences are difficult to read aloud. They are repetitive, and awkward.	

	clear and has an obvious emphasis.	2 are awkward or difficult to understand.	awkward and difficult to understand.		
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used in accurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary, which does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or cliché's may be present and detract from the meaning of the essay.	

TOTAL POINTS: _____