

Writing a Definition Essay

SCORING GUIDE

Scoring Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
Ideas	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses all three strategies of definition effectively to define a hero maintains a precise and original thesis integrates relevant supporting detail and evidence (quotes and paraphrases) with citations and commentary. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses strategies of definition (function, example, negation) to define a hero maintains a clear thesis includes adequate supporting detail and evidence (quotes and paraphrases) with citations and commentary. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses insufficient strategies of definition to define a hero has an unclear or unfocused thesis includes inadequate supporting detail and evidence; may have inconsistent citations and/or weak commentary. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not define a hero using strategies of definition has no discernible thesis lacks supporting detail, citations, and/or commentary.
Structure	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduces the main idea with an engaging hook, bridge, and thesis organizes ideas into focused support paragraphs that progress smoothly creates coherence with the purposeful use of a variety of transitions and topic sentences provides an insightful conclusion. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduces the topic with a hook, bridge, and thesis organizes ideas into support paragraphs that progress logically creates coherence with the use of transitions and topic sentences provides a conclusion that follows from the ideas presented. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes an ineffective or partial introduction has unrelated, undeveloped, or insufficient support paragraphs uses transitions and topic sentences ineffectively or inconsistently provides a weak, illogical, or repetitive conclusion. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacks an introduction has minimal, absent, or flawed support paragraphs uses few or no transitions and topic sentences lacks a conclusion.
Use of Language	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses consistent diction and style appropriate for an academic audience demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage (including complex sentences). 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses diction and style that is generally appropriate for an academic audience demonstrates adequate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage (including complex sentences). 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses diction or a style that is basic or inappropriate to an academic audience demonstrates partial or inconsistent command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses flawed diction lacks command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage; frequent errors obscure meaning.