

# Six-Point Scoring Rubric – Scholarship Essay

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Experimenting	Emerging	Developing	Effective	Strong	Exceptional
<b>Ideas</b> The meaning and development of the message (x5) 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Searching for a topic</li> <li>Limited information</li> <li>Vague details</li> <li>Random thoughts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hints at topic</li> <li>Reader left with many unanswered questions</li> <li>Sporadic details</li> <li>Glimmer of main point</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General topic defined</li> <li>Reasonably clear ideas</li> <li>Details present but not precise</li> <li>Shows some specifics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topic fairly narrowed</li> <li>New ways of thinking about topic attempted</li> <li>Credible details with some support</li> <li>Writer understands topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrow and manageable topic</li> <li>Clear, focused, and answers readers' questions</li> <li>Relevant, accurate details enrich theme</li> <li>Shows insight into topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unique treatment of topic</li> <li>In-depth understanding of topic</li> <li>Unusual details go beyond the obvious</li> <li>Makes connections; shares insights effectively</li> </ul>
<b>Organization</b> The internal structure of the piece (x3) 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No lead or conclusion</li> <li>Sequencing not present</li> <li>No awareness of pacing</li> <li>Hard to follow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ineffective lead and conclusion</li> <li>Some sequencing apparent</li> <li>Pacing awkward</li> <li>Some attempt at structure</li> <li>Occasionally aware of audience</li> <li>General statements require reader interpretation</li> <li>Tries to engage</li> <li>Hints at purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine lead and conclusion</li> <li>More logical sequencing</li> <li>Pacing generally under control</li> <li>Common structures detract from content</li> <li>Writer begins to connect with the reader</li> <li>Pleasing, yet "safe"</li> <li>Writer/reader connection fades in and out</li> <li>Purpose inconsistent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective lead and conclusion</li> <li>Sequencing works well</li> <li>Well-controlled pacing</li> <li>Common structures have smooth flow</li> <li>Writer occasionally intrigues the reader</li> <li>Pleasing; takes risks</li> <li>Engages reader most of the time</li> <li>Purpose consistent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inviting introduction and satisfying conclusion</li> <li>Effective sequencing</li> <li>Pacing is creative</li> <li>Structure begins to reveal theme</li> <li>Interesting and informative</li> <li>Takes effective risks</li> <li>Reflects interest and commitment in topic</li> <li>Purpose shows clarity and understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction and conclusion are unique but connected</li> <li>Masterful sequencing</li> <li>Artful pacing used for stylistic effect</li> <li>Structure showcases central ideas or theme</li> <li>Compelling and engaging</li> <li>Writer goes out on a limb</li> <li>Displays ownership of the topic</li> <li>Powerful purpose shows commitment</li> </ul>
<b>Voice</b> The way the writer brings the topic to life (x3) 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No concern for audience</li> <li>Lifeless and mechanical</li> <li>Flat or inappropriate</li> <li>Purpose not present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally correct words; no spice</li> <li>Language is functional</li> <li>Attempts at interesting words</li> <li>Words convey general meaning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some active verbs and precise nouns</li> <li>A moment or two of sparkle</li> <li>Experiments with figurative language</li> <li>Words begin to enhance meaning</li> <li>Attempts compound and complex sentences</li> <li>Sentences usually connect</li> <li>Parts invite oral reading</li> <li>Sentences begin in different ways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective and creative verbs and nouns</li> <li>Wording mostly correct</li> <li>Accurate use of figurative language</li> <li>Word and phrases work well</li> <li>Begins to have easy flow and rhythm</li> <li>Strong and varied structure</li> <li>Oral reading encourages expression in places</li> <li>Sentences well crafted</li> <li>Few spelling errors even on more difficult words</li> <li>Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage correct</li> <li>Correct use of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precision with words and phrases</li> <li>Wording works effectively</li> <li>Figurative language is effective</li> <li>Words and phrases create picture</li> <li>Rhythm and flow feel natural</li> <li>Creative use of sentence length and structure</li> <li>Invites expressive reading</li> <li>Sentences relate and build upon one another</li> <li>Spelling correct even on more difficult words</li> <li>Accurate and creative use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Standard grammar and usage are under control</li> <li>Sound and creative paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful, engaging, and "just-right" words</li> <li>Wording is accurate and precise</li> <li>Artful use of figurative language</li> <li>Words and phrases create lingering images</li> <li>Carefully honed cadences</li> <li>Exquisitely constructed sentences</li> <li>Reading aloud is a breeze</li> <li>Sentences enhance meaning</li> <li>Uses unique spellings for style</li> <li>Stylistic use of punctuation/capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style</li> <li>Paragraphing is stylistically effective</li> </ul>
<b>Word Choice</b> The specific vocabulary the writer uses to convey meaning (x2) 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary is limited</li> <li>Simple words used incorrectly</li> <li>No figurative language</li> <li>Words do not convey meaning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some simple sentences</li> <li>Occasional connecting word use</li> <li>Oral reading difficult</li> <li>Attempts variation in sentence beginnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling generally correct on basic words</li> <li>Routine punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar errors infrequent</li> <li>Consistent paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to have easy flow and rhythm</li> <li>Strong and varied structure</li> <li>Oral reading encourages expression in places</li> <li>Sentences well crafted</li> <li>Few spelling errors even on more difficult words</li> <li>Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage correct</li> <li>Correct use of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precision with words and phrases</li> <li>Wording works effectively</li> <li>Figurative language is effective</li> <li>Words and phrases create picture</li> <li>Rhythm and flow feel natural</li> <li>Creative use of sentence length and structure</li> <li>Invites expressive reading</li> <li>Sentences relate and build upon one another</li> <li>Spelling correct even on more difficult words</li> <li>Accurate and creative use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Standard grammar and usage are under control</li> <li>Sound and creative paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful, engaging, and "just-right" words</li> <li>Wording is accurate and precise</li> <li>Artful use of figurative language</li> <li>Words and phrases create lingering images</li> <li>Carefully honed cadences</li> <li>Exquisitely constructed sentences</li> <li>Reading aloud is a breeze</li> <li>Sentences enhance meaning</li> <li>Uses unique spellings for style</li> <li>Stylistic use of punctuation/capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style</li> <li>Paragraphing is stylistically effective</li> </ul>
<b>Sentence Fluency</b> The way the words and phrases flow throughout the text (x2) 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choppy, rambling, or incomplete</li> <li>No "sentence sense"</li> <li>Oral reading is not possible</li> <li>Repetitive beginnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some simple sentences</li> <li>Occasional connecting word use</li> <li>Oral reading difficult</li> <li>Attempts variation in sentence beginnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling generally correct on basic words</li> <li>Routine punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar errors infrequent</li> <li>Consistent paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to have easy flow and rhythm</li> <li>Strong and varied structure</li> <li>Oral reading encourages expression in places</li> <li>Sentences well crafted</li> <li>Few spelling errors even on more difficult words</li> <li>Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage correct</li> <li>Correct use of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precision with words and phrases</li> <li>Wording works effectively</li> <li>Figurative language is effective</li> <li>Words and phrases create picture</li> <li>Rhythm and flow feel natural</li> <li>Creative use of sentence length and structure</li> <li>Invites expressive reading</li> <li>Sentences relate and build upon one another</li> <li>Spelling correct even on more difficult words</li> <li>Accurate and creative use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Standard grammar and usage are under control</li> <li>Sound and creative paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful, engaging, and "just-right" words</li> <li>Wording is accurate and precise</li> <li>Artful use of figurative language</li> <li>Words and phrases create lingering images</li> <li>Carefully honed cadences</li> <li>Exquisitely constructed sentences</li> <li>Reading aloud is a breeze</li> <li>Sentences enhance meaning</li> <li>Uses unique spellings for style</li> <li>Stylistic use of punctuation/capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style</li> <li>Paragraphing is stylistically effective</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b> The mechanical correctness of the piece (x2) 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling errors impede readability</li> <li>Incorrect punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Many usage and grammar errors</li> <li>Lack of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling errors on easy words</li> <li>Errors on basic punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Some usage and grammar errors</li> <li>Occasional use of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling generally correct on basic words</li> <li>Routine punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar errors infrequent</li> <li>Consistent paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to have easy flow and rhythm</li> <li>Strong and varied structure</li> <li>Oral reading encourages expression in places</li> <li>Sentences well crafted</li> <li>Few spelling errors even on more difficult words</li> <li>Consistent use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage correct</li> <li>Correct use of paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precision with words and phrases</li> <li>Wording works effectively</li> <li>Figurative language is effective</li> <li>Words and phrases create picture</li> <li>Rhythm and flow feel natural</li> <li>Creative use of sentence length and structure</li> <li>Invites expressive reading</li> <li>Sentences relate and build upon one another</li> <li>Spelling correct even on more difficult words</li> <li>Accurate and creative use of punctuation and capitalization</li> <li>Standard grammar and usage are under control</li> <li>Sound and creative paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful, engaging, and "just-right" words</li> <li>Wording is accurate and precise</li> <li>Artful use of figurative language</li> <li>Words and phrases create lingering images</li> <li>Carefully honed cadences</li> <li>Exquisitely constructed sentences</li> <li>Reading aloud is a breeze</li> <li>Sentences enhance meaning</li> <li>Uses unique spellings for style</li> <li>Stylistic use of punctuation/capitalization</li> <li>Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style</li> <li>Paragraphing is stylistically effective</li> </ul>