

Six-Point Scoring Rubric – Scholarship Essay

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