ESSAY SCORING CHECKLIST

A. Does your essay have a clear main idea and stay on topic?
   - 1. No, my essay has a weak main idea and does not stay on topic.
   - 2. My essay has a clear main idea, but it also includes some points that are not directly related to the main idea.
   - 3. Yes, my essay has a clear main idea and all subtopics connect to the main idea.
   - 4. Yes, my essay has a strong main idea and subtopics that reveal thoughtful connections to the main idea.

B. Are the ideas in your essay well organized, with enough subtopics and transitions?
   - 1. No, the ideas in my essay are not in any order, and there are no subtopics or transitions.
   - 2. My essay shows some planning, but it does not contain enough subtopics and transitions.
   - 3. Yes, the ideas in my essay are logically connected with more than one subtopic and a few transitions.
   - 4. Yes, my essay is well organized with multiple subtopics and effective transitions.

C. Do the paragraphs in your essay contain details that support the main idea, and are connections between details and main idea stated clearly?
   - 1. No, many of the paragraphs in my essay contain details that don't support the main idea, or many of the paragraphs don't have any details at all.
   - 2. Many of the paragraphs contain sufficient supporting details, but the connections between details and main idea are not stated.
   - 3. Yes, the paragraphs in my essay contain relevant and concrete details, and the connections between details and main idea are stated but simple.
   - 4. Yes, the paragraphs in my essay contain excellent relevant details, and the connections between details and main idea are fully explained.

D. Do the sentences in your essay display variety in word choice and structure as well as correct usage, punctuation, and spelling?
   - 1. No, the sentences in my essay are not worded correctly or varied in structure, and most of them contain errors in usage, punctuation, and spelling.
   - 2. The sentences in my essay contain appropriate but vague words, basic sentence structure, some errors in punctuation and spelling, and many errors in usage.
   - 3. Yes, the sentences in my essay vary somewhat in structure, include appropriate and specific words, and contain only a few small errors in usage, punctuation, and spelling.
   - 4. Yes, the sentences in my essay display excellent word choice, great variety in structure, and almost no errors in usage.
Goal Setting

Writing for a specific purpose involves first defining your purpose and then using the appropriate text structure. When you know the components and steps involved in each type of writing, your own writing will be more effective. Use the checklist to keep your learning organized! Check off each topic after you learn about it.

Arguments

_____ introduce a claim
_____ write an argument to support your claim
_____ assess accuracy of source
_____ respond to counterclaims
_____ provide a conclusion

Informative/Explanatory

_____ introduce a topic
_____ develop a topic
_____ organize ideas, concepts, and information
_____ use appropriate and varied transitions
_____ provide a concluding statement or section

Narrative

_____ establish a point of view
_____ introduce characters and establish a context
_____ organize an event sequence
_____ use sensory language

What do you already know about text types and purposes?

Which of the above topics do you want to learn more about?