

# TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WRITING RUBRIC



This rubric was designed to be applicable to all expository writing, including persuasive essays, thesis papers, and research papers. It incorporates CAPT Interdisciplinary expectations, as well as commonly accepted expectations for good writing of all kinds.

<b>POSITION</b>		UNACCEPTABLE	DEFICIENT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	EXEMPLARY
<b>A</b>	Clearly stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea)					
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>		UNACCEPTABLE	DEFICIENT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	EXEMPLARY
<b>B</b>	Introduction which previews main points					
<b>C</b>	Clear focus (stays on topic)					
<b>D</b>	Appropriate and effective organization					
<b>E</b>	Effective conclusion					
<b>SUPPORT</b>		UNACCEPTABLE	DEFICIENT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	EXEMPLARY
<b>F</b>	Fully developed ideas					
<b>G</b>	Supporting details from appropriate sources					
<b>H</b>	Opposing viewpoint presented and refuted					
<b>STYLE &amp; FLUENCY</b>		UNACCEPTABLE	DEFICIENT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	EXEMPLARY
<b>I</b>	Awareness of voice and audience					
<b>J</b>	Introduction with a "capture" statement					
<b>K</b>	Consistent, careful, and precise word choice					
<b>L</b>	Grammar, mechanics, usage, and spelling					
<b>M</b>	Effective transitions					
<b>N</b>	Citations in appropriate format					
<b>ETCETERA</b>		UNACCEPTABLE	DEFICIENT	ADEQUATE	GOOD	EXEMPLARY
<b>O</b>	Other requirements pertinent to this paper					

[03/11/03]

# EXPLANATIONS OF THE OBJECTIVES

DESCRIPTION OF TERMS	
<b>Position</b>	
<u>Clearly stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea)</u>	
<b>A</b>	Unacceptable- No discernible position (purpose/thesis/main idea) Deficient - Position (purpose/thesis/main idea) unclear or does not match with content of paper Adequate - Position (purpose/thesis/main idea) present, but obvious or too general Good - Position (purpose/thesis/main idea) with some depth of insight, thought and/or originality Exemplary - Position (purpose/thesis/main idea) with unique or original insight and perspective
<b>Organization</b>	
<u>Introduction which previews main points and/or key information</u>	
<b>B</b>	Unacceptable - No mention of main points/key information Deficient - Mentions some but not all of the main points/key information Adequate - Mentions all of the main points/key information in cursory, mechanical fashion Good - Mentions all of the main points/key information fully Exemplary - Mentions all main points/key information fully yet unobtrusively
<u>Clear focus (stays on topic)</u>	
<b>C</b>	Unacceptable - No discernible position (purpose/thesis/main idea) to begin with Deficient - Mostly off stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea) Adequate - Mostly adheres to stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea); some extraneous material Good - Adheres to stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea); minimum of extraneous material Exemplary - Adheres exclusively to stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea)
<u>Appropriate and effective organization</u>	
<b>D</b>	Unacceptable - No discernible organization Deficient - Multiple or disordered topics per paragraph Adequate - One topic per paragraph Good - One topic per paragraph, logical progression of topics Exemplary - Each paragraph builds and/or reflects on adjacent paragraphs
<u>Effective conclusion</u>	
<b>E</b>	Unacceptable - No conclusion at all Deficient - Concludes paper but makes no reference to stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea) Adequate - Merely repeats position (purpose/thesis/main idea) mentioned in introduction Good - Repeats stated position (purpose/thesis/main idea) with reference to supporting examples Exemplary - As above, in an unforced and natural progression of ideas
<b>Support</b>	
<u>Fully developed ideas</u>	
<b>F</b>	Unacceptable - Ideas not clearly stated or understood Deficient - Ideas inconsistently stated and/or understood Adequate - Ideas consistently understood and stated Good - Ideas consistently stated and explained; some depth of insight and understanding Exemplary - Ideas consistently explained and developed; impressive insight and understanding
<u>Supporting details from appropriate sources</u>	
<b>G</b>	Unacceptable - No supporting details Deficient - Supporting details inaccurate or not relevant or from inappropriate source Adequate - Supporting details present but could be stronger or more relevant; minor inaccuracies; minimum number of appropriate sources Good - Supporting details generally relevant and accurate from well-chosen sources Exemplary - Supporting details strong and well-connected from diverse and well-chosen sources
<u>Opposing viewpoint presented and refuted</u>	
<b>H</b>	Unacceptable - Opposing viewpoint not present or does not refute Deficient - Opposing viewpoint present but does not fully refute Adequate - Opposing viewpoint present and adequately refutes Good - Opposing viewpoint present and effectively refutes Exemplary - Opposing viewpoint present and strongly or imaginatively refutes

## Style & Fluency

### Awareness of voice and audience

I

- Unacceptable - No recognition of required voice or audience
- Deficient - Voice is inappropriate to designated audience
- Adequate - Required voice and/or audience is recognized
- Good - Shows awareness of particular traits of voice and/or audience
- Exemplary - Shows special recognition of particular traits of voice and/or audience

### Introduction with a "capture" statement

J

- Unacceptable - No attempt made to entice reader
- Deficient - Capture statement present but exceedingly dull and perfunctory
- Adequate - Capture statement present but unimaginative and perfunctory
- Good - Introduction shows some thought; capture statement moderately enticing
- Exemplary - Introduction and capture statement imaginative and provocative

### Consistent, careful, and precise word choice

K

- Unacceptable - Numerous inaccuracies
- Deficient - Several inaccuracies
- Adequate - Mostly correct; may include minor inaccuracies
- Good - No wrong choices; some impressive, some could be better
- Exemplary - No wrong choices; many impressive

### Grammar, mechanics, usage, and spelling

L

- Unacceptable - Egregious and repeated errors
- Deficient - Numerous and careless errors
- Adequate - Minimum of errors
- Good - No errors
- Exemplary - No errors, impressive style and word choice

### Effective transitions

M

- Unacceptable - No discernible connection between paragraphs
- Deficient - Paragraphs inconsistently connected
- Adequate - Paragraphs connected by topic only
- Good - Discernible connection between succeeding paragraphs
- Exemplary - Each paragraph leads smoothly and naturally to the next

### Citations in appropriate format

N

- Unacceptable - No citations present
- Deficient - Citations incomplete, or present but with numerous technical errors
- Adequate - Citations present with minor technical errors
- Good - Citations present, no technical errors
- Exemplary - Numerous citations present from varied sources, no technical errors