

DHS Basic Writing Rubric

“A/B” paper	“C” paper	“D/F” paper	Score
<i>IDEAS AND CONTENT</i>	<i>IDEAS AND CONTENT</i>	<i>IDEAS AND CONTENT</i>	
Follows thesis/stays focused	Strays from thesis at times	Doesn't follow /has no thesis	
Knows topic well	Knowledge of topic limited	Little knowledge on topic	
Effective amount of details	Skimpy supporting details	Many details missing	
<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	
Effective sequencing and transitions	Direction somewhat ineffective	Little sense of direction, no clear transitions	
Creative beginning/ending	Weak start or finish	No clear beginning/ending	
Details organized	Misplaced details	Details not related to topic	
<i>VOICE / WORD CHOICE</i>	<i>VOICE / WORD CHOICE</i>	<i>VOICE / WORD CHOICE</i>	
Shows interest, honesty	Uses routine predictable style	No personality, character	
Interesting, accurate vocab.	Adequate vocabulary	Limited vocabulary	
<i>SENTENCE STRUCTURE</i>	<i>SENTENCE STRUCTURE</i>	<i>SENTENCE STRUCTURE</i>	
Varied, effective structure	Minimal variety or awkward, uses fragments, run-ons	No sentence variety, too many fragments or run-ons	
Conveys meaning clearly	Some mistakes lose meaning	Mistakes lose meaning	
<i>WRITING CONVENTIONS</i>	<i>WRITING CONVENTIONS</i>	<i>WRITING CONVENTIONS</i>	
No spelling errors	Some spelling errors	Too many spelling errors	
Few punctuation/capitalization errors	Some capital/punctuation errors	Too many capital/punctuation errors	
Errors minor/don't hurt reading	Errors detract from reading	Errors make it difficult to read	
Good grammar/ agreement	Errors in grammar/agreement	Poor grammar/agreement	
<i>SPECIFIC GOALS FOR PAPER:</i>	<i>SPECIFIC GOALS FOR PAPER:</i>	<i>SPECIFIC GOALS FOR PAPER:</i>	
connects research to reasons to prove arguable point	uses research but not always connected	uses little/no research	
shows evidence of thinking about audience's reaction	relates to audience some through pathos	uses no pathos	
clearly refutes the opposition with proof	addresses opposition some	does not address opposition	

Comments: