EVIDENCE–BASED

WRITING RUBRIC

FANTASTIC (4)

GOOD WORK (3)

GETTING THERE (2)

KEEP TRYING (1)

•

•

Contains a clear,

compelling claim

• Contains a clear claim

• Contains a claim, but it

is not fully explained

• Claim is missing

or unclear

•

Claim shows general

understanding of

the topic

Claim shows insight

and a high level of

understanding of

the topic

• Claim shows some

understanding of the

topic, but also some

misunderstanding

• Ideas do not seem

to have any purpose

or connection to the

text/sources

CONTENT

•

Ideas follow logically

from the text/sources

•

Ideas follow logically

from the text/sources

• Ideas are not always

relevant or connected

to the text/sources

•

•

Claim is well-supported

by evidence

• Claim is supported

by evidence

• Claim is only partly

supported by evidence

• Shows some

understanding of the

use of evidence, but

there is very little

evidence and/or it is

unrelated to the topic

Evidence is used

throughout the

entire piece

• Evidence is used well,

but there are some gaps

• Evidence is only

sometimes used,

with many gaps or

misunderstandings

EVIDENCE

•

Reasoning follows from

the evidence

•

•

Reasoning follows from

the evidence

The structure of the

piece is appropriate

for the content and

purpose and strengthens

the ideas being

• The structure of the

piece is appropriate for

the content and purpose

and supports the ideas

being communicated

• There is some effort to

organize ideas, but there

are major gaps and the

strategy is unclear

• The piece includes

separate paragraphs,

but they are not well

connected and there

is not a consistent

organization

•

Paragraphs contain

communicated

•

There is an appropriate

arrangement of ideas

and use of transitions,

but evidence is not

separate ideas, but

ORGANIZATION

•

There is a smooth

ﬂow of ideas and

an excellent use of

transitions, quotes,

and sentence variety

transitions aren’t used

regularly; there is some

repetition of ideas and

quotes are not well used

• Ideas do not ﬂow across

paragraphs and are

made confusing by

inaccurate sentence

structure

always included properly

•

•

Contains speciﬁc and

strong vocabulary

• Contains appropriate

vocabulary, but isn’t

always speciﬁc

• Words are incorrect,

unclear, or repeated

too often

• Contains very limited

or incorrect word choice

Sentence structure

highlights key ideas

and relationships

among them

• Sentence structure

is simple or incorrect,

resulting in the

communication of

only a few simple ideas

• Sentence structure

supports key ideas, but

could be clearer and

more varied

• Sentence structure is

simple or incorrect and

limits the presentation

of ideas

LANGUAGE &

GRAMMAR

•

Errors are very few and

do not disrupt the force

of the writing

• Errors do not interfere

with understanding, but

may weaken the force of

the writing

• Errors interfere with

understanding and

weaken the force of

the writing

• Errors make it very

difﬁcult to understand

ideas

[Adapted from Engage NY, engageny.org/file/89821/download/evidence-based-writing-rubric.pdf.](engageny.org/file/89821/download/evidence-based-writing-rubric.pdf)

