

Sample State Rubric

ONLINE
4.7



Focus. Focus refers to how clearly the paper presents and maintains a main idea, theme, or unifying point.

- Papers receiving lower and middle scores may contain information that is loosely related, extraneous, or both.
- Papers receiving higher scores demonstrate a consistent awareness of the topic and avoid loosely related or extraneous information.

Organization. Organization refers to the structure or plan of development (beginning, middle, and end) and the relationship of one point to another. Organization refers to the use of transitional devices (terms, phrases, and variations in sentence structure) to signal (1) the relationship of the supporting ideas to the main idea, theme, or unifying point and (2) the connections between and among sentences.

- Papers receiving lower scores may lack transitional devices and summary or concluding statements.
- Papers receiving higher scores use transitional devices (signals of the text plan or structure) and developed conclusions.

Support. Support refers to the quality of details used to explain, clarify, or define. The quality of the support depends on word choice, specificity, depth, credibility, and thoroughness.

- Papers receiving lower and middle scores may contain support that is a bare list of events or reasons, support that is extended by a detail, or both.
- Papers receiving higher scores provide elaborated examples and fully developed illustrations, and the relationship between the supporting ideas and the topic is clear.

Conventions. Conventions refer to the punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and sentence structure. These conventions are basic writing skills included in Florida's *Sunshine State Standards*.

- Papers receiving lower and middle scores may contain some or many errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and sentence structure and may have little variation in sentence structure.
- Papers receiving higher scores follow, with few exceptions, the conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling and use a variety of sentence structures to present ideas.