

"Student Friendly" PSSA Writing Rubric

Category	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Basic	1 Below Basic
Focus	My writing is clear and everything answers all parts of the prompt. I did not forget or leave out anything I added details.	Everything I wrote was on topic. I focused on the prompt. Sometimes my sentences are unclear in the beginning and ending of the writing.	My writing is not clear and I left out some parts of the prompt.	I did not stay focused on the topic or prompt. My writing is very difficult to understand and I missed my goal or what someone else made my goal.
Content	I wrote important details and information. I developed my ideas and made sure all my sentences provided for the prompt.	I used some details to support my idea but I needed to add more information and supporting details.	I needed to use more details to support my writing completely.	I did not include or know to support my topic or response.
Organization	I wrote strong introductions, body, and conclusions. I used appropriate transitions connecting these.	I wrote an introduction or conclusion in attempts at organizing my response. I needed to use transitions to make my ideas flow.	I did not organize my response. I wrote many paragraphs. My writing seems more like a list of ideas than complete paragraphs. I did not use transition words.	I wrote introductions, body, and conclusions. I had many ideas but I did not use transition words.
Style	I used descriptive words that help readers "see" my ideas. My sentences varied in length, punctuation, and structure. My tone and voice were consistent.	My words were clear. I used a variety of words. I did not use different types of sentences. Tone and voice were not always consistent.	I used few descriptive words. I had little sentence variety. The tone and voice were not consistent.	I used few descriptive words. My sentences all begin with the same word and are not complete. There is no variation from a tone.
Conventions	I had few, if any, errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. My writing is easy to read and understand.	I made a few errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization but my message is still clear and understandable.	Many errors in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Sometimes my writing is hard to read.	My writing had so many mistakes that it is difficult to read or understand.