

"Student Friendly" PSSA Writing Rubric

Category	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Basic	1 Below Basic
Focus	My writing is clear and completely answers all parts of the prompt. I did not forget or lose the main idea when I added details.	Sometimes my writing moved away from the main point of focus of the prompt. Sometimes my details did not relate to the prompt and made my ideas confusing.	My writing is not clear and I drifted away from the prompt.	I did not stay focused on the topic or prompt. My writing is very difficult to understand when I re-read my work or when someone else reads my work.
Content	I used important details and information. I developed my ideas and made sure all of my sentences connect to the prompt.	I used some details to support my topic but I needed to add more information and supporting details.	I need to use more details to make my writing complete.	I did not use details or ideas to support my topic or response.
Organization	I wrote a strong introduction, body, and conclusion. I used appropriate transitions to connect my ideas.	I need to put my story in order. I need to strengthen all portions of my response. I need to use more transition words to make my ideas flow.	I did not organize my response. I was missing paragraphs. My writing seems more like an outline than complete paragraphs. I did not use transition words.	I had no introduction, body, or conclusion. I have many mixed-up ideas. I did not use transition words.
Style	I used descriptive words that help readers "see" my ideas. My sentences varied in length, word usage, and structure. My tone and voice are consistent.	Most words address the prompt. I should choose a wider variety of words. I did not use different types of sentences. Tone and voice are not always consistent.	I used few descriptive words. I had little sentence variety. The tone and voice are not consistent.	I used no descriptive words. My sentences all begin with the same word or are not complete. There is no consistent tone or voice.
Conventions	I had few, if any, errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. My writing is neat and legible.	I made a few errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation, but my meaning is still clear and understandable.	I had many mistakes in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Sometimes my writing is hard to read.	My writing has so many mistakes that it is difficult to read or understand.