



ELA A30 General Writing

Name _____

		Fully meeting expectations, with enriched understanding (EU)	Fully meeting grade level expectations (FM)	Mostly meeting grade level expectations (MM)	Not yet meeting grade level expectations (NY)
Message/Meaning	Clear and consistent thesis	Your message is clearly and consistently on one topic with a thesis message that resonates with the audience and aligns clearly with the purpose.	You independently and clearly write about a central, strong thesis.	With help your message is mostly clear and on topic. Spend time in the pre-writing stage, developing your focus fully. Review your purpose and audience.	Even with help you struggle to present a thesis that is strong and central. Always keep your main idea in mind and build onto it. Your pre-writing should focus on this. Establish your audience and purpose before beginning.
	Details	Your composition demonstrates a deep understanding of topic and this emerges through engaging and comprehensive details about the place and time as it relates to your intended purpose. You have approached detail support creatively, through both words and graphic or illustrations.	Your composition demonstrates a clear understanding of the purpose and contains relevant details to support this purpose. You have an accurate representation of multiple aspects of your topic in both writing and visually.	Your composition demonstrates a basic or uneven understanding of the topic. You needed support fleshing out details. What details could make your essay even stronger? Where can you go for additional information? How can you present your information?	You are having trouble showing a clear understanding of your intended topic. Who is the person you are focusing on? What details are important? When did it take place? Where? What events are essential? Where can you go to find this information? How can you make sure your information is accurate?
Organization and Coherence	Logical and effective structures	The organization of your writing enhances the desired effect on your audience, and clarifies the purpose and context of your creation. You have taken some risks to enhance impact.	Your writing is clearly organized in a manner that is logical to its audience, purpose and context.	With help you create writing that is somewhat organized to suit audience, purpose and context. Review that ways your text form could be organized.	You are having trouble creating writing that is organized to suit its audience, purpose and context. Use a visual organizer to help you plan. Explore ways your chosen text form can be organized by looking at examples.
	Valid and justifiable conclusion	Your conclusion powerfully and succinctly encapsulates your message and leaves your listeners with deeper understanding.	Your conclusion strongly and coherently sums up and brings closure to your message.	With help, your conclusion mostly sums up and brings closure to your message. How can you end your speech in a way that helps your listeners to understand your message?	You are having trouble summing up your message. Spend more time planning all parts of your message. What ideas do you want to leave your listeners with, in the end?

Style and Language Choices	Skillful use of rhetorical devices	You are able to make skillful use of multiple rhetorical devices in order to achieve an engaging effect that suits the audience and purpose. You can explain why you made the decisions you did as it relates to your message.	You are able to make skillful use of rhetorical devices in your speech in order to achieve a desired effect.	With help, you can make use of rhetorical devices in your speech. Continue to look for ways to use rhetorical devices without sacrificing any aspect of your message. How can they be used with the greatest impact? Which works best when?	You are having trouble using rhetorical devices in your speech. Be sure that you know what rhetorical devices are. Look for examples in speeches by other people. What impact do they have on you as a listener? How could you use them in your message?
	Writer's Voice	The writing is honest, enthusiastic, natural and thought-provoking; the reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words; sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure; reveals deepening insight, sometimes expressed as wonder, the essay concludes, but the thinking does not, reader is left with ideas to ponder	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure; coherent, but relies on prescribed organizational structure rather than following lines or patterns of thought; predictable word choice	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer may be aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety; generally stays on topic but lapses into digressions; simple, generic word choice	Writing is confusing, hard to follow; language is vague; no audience awareness; disorganized; no variety in sentence structure.
	Mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation)	Strong control of conventions. Varied sentence structures. Almost error-free.	Adequate control of conventions. Some variety in sentence structures; some errors in syntax, spelling, and usage.	Weak control of conventions. Simple sentence structure; some syntax and usage problems.	Errors in conventions interfere with understanding of piece.

Rhetorical devices: ambiguity, contradiction, paradox, irony, incongruity, overstatement, understatement

Feedback: