

Writing Proficiency Exam Rubric
(Revised Fall 2013)

Grader: _____

CRITERION*	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	PASSING	FAILING
Context of and Purpose for Writing Does the essay present a position on the specified topic?	The essay presents a clear and logical argument in response to one of the prompts.	The essay presents a clear argument in response to one of the prompts.	The essay presents an argument in response to one of the prompts.	The essay suggests a position but does not present an argument.	The essay does not answer the prompts.
Genre and Disciplinary Conventions Does the essay provide a thesis statement?	The essay provides a clear and insightful thesis statement at the end of the introduction.	The essay provides a clear thesis at the end of the introduction.	The essay provides a clear thesis in the introduction.	The essay provides a thesis but not in the introduction.	The essay does not include a thesis.
Content Development (paragraph unity) Do the body paragraphs support the thesis?	Each body paragraph provides strong and compelling support of the stated thesis.	Each body paragraph provides strong support of the stated thesis.	Each body paragraph supports the stated thesis.	Body paragraphs provide marginal support for the stated thesis.	Body paragraphs do not sufficiently support the stated thesis.
Sources and Evidence (paragraph development) Does each body paragraph focus on one main idea, provide supporting details, and use valid reasoning?	Each body paragraph maintains focus on one idea, expressed in a topic sentence, and supported with several logical examples, reasoning, and details.	Each body paragraph focuses on one idea and has logical supporting examples and details.	Body paragraphs generally maintain focus and include some reasonable examples or explanation.	Body paragraphs struggle to maintain focus and/or provide sufficient reasonable support.	Body paragraphs lack focus and/or fail to provide sufficient and/or reasonable supporting details.
Control of Syntax and Mechanics Does the essay demonstrate proficiency in standard written English and use appropriate style?	The essay contains few errors and employs mature, clear, and effective syntax.	The essay has some errors, but they do not interfere with readability. Syntax is clear and mature.	The essay contains some patterns of errors, but they do not interfere with readability. Syntax is simple but clear.	The essay contains several patterns of errors and/or employs unclear, mixed, or immature syntax.	The essay contains excessive errors and/or unclear/immature syntax that interfere with readability.
Comments:					Pass Fail