Make Your Mark Scholarship Writing Rubric

Description	5 Exceptional	4 Skilled	3 Proficient	2 Developing	1 Inadequate
Focus : The text focuses on a topic to inform a reader with ideas, concepts, and information that creates a unified whole.	The text clearly focuses on a compelling topic that informs the reader with ideas, concepts, and information that creates a unified whole.	The text focuses on an interesting topic that informs the reader with ideas, concepts, and information that creates a unified whole.	The text has a topic that informs the reader with ideas, concepts, and information that creates a unified whole.	The text has an unclear topic with some ideas, concepts, and information.	The text has an unidentifiable topic with minimal ideas, concepts, and information.
Development : The text presents facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples. The text provides a conclusion that supports the topic and examines its implications and significance.	The text provides significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations and/or examples that thoroughly develop and explain the topic. The text provides an engaging conclusion that supports the topic and examines its implications and significance.	The text provides relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or examples that sufficiently develop and explain the topic. The text provides a competent conclusion that supports the topic and examines its implications and significance.	The text provides facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or examples that develop the topic. The text provides a conclusion that supports the topic and examines its implications and significance.	The text provides facts, definitions, details, quotations, and/or examples that attempt to develop and explain the topic. The text may provide a conclusion that supports the topic.	The text contains limited facts and examples related to the topic. The text may or may not provide a conclusion.
Audience: The text anticipates the audience's background knowledge of the topic. The text includes formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.	The text consistently addresses the audience's knowledge level and concerns about the topic. The text includes effective formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia that enhance comprehension.	The text anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns about the topic. The text includes appropriate formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia that strengthen comprehension.	The text considers the audience's knowledge level about the topic. The text includes formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.	The text illustrates an inconsistent awareness of the audience's knowledge level about the topic. The text may include some formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia that may be distracting or irrelevant.	The text lacks an awareness of the audience's knowledge level about the topic. The text includes limited or inaccurate formatting, graphics, and/ or multimedia that impedes comprehension.
Cohesion : The text explains the relationship between ideas and concepts. The text includes appropriate and varied transitions and syntax.	The text strategically uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of text. The text explains the relationships between the topic and the examples and/or facts.	The text skillfully uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text identifies the relationship between the topic and the examples and/or facts.	The text uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text connects the topic and the examples and/or facts.	The text contains limited words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text attempts to connect the topic and the examples and/or facts.	The text contains few, if any, words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text does not connect the topic and the examples and/or facts.
Language and Style: The text presents a formal style and objective tone and uses language, vocabulary, and techniques such as analogies and/or quotes to manage the topic.	The text presents an engaging, formal, and objective tone. The text uses sophisticated language, vocabulary, and techniques such as analogies and/or quotes to manage the complexity of the topic.	The text presents a formal, objective tone. The text uses precise language, vocabulary, and techniques such as analogies and/or quotes to manage the complexity of the topic.	The text presents a formal, objective tone. The text uses relevant language, vocabulary, and techniques such as analogies and/or quotes to manage the complexity of the topic.	The text illustrates a limited awareness of formal tone. The text attempts to use language, vocabulary, and some techniques such as analogies and/or quotes.	The text illustrates a limited or inconsistent tone. The text uses imprecise language, vocabulary, and limited techniques.
Conventions : The text demonstrates standard English conventions of usage and mechanics while attending to the norms of the discipline in which they are writing.	The text intentionally uses standard English conventions of usage and mechanics while specifically attending to the norms of the discipline in which they are writing.	The text demonstrates standard English conventions of usage and mechanics while suitably attending to the norms of the discipline in which they are writing.	The text demonstrates standard English conventions of usage and mechanics while attending to the norms of the discipline in which they are writing.	The text demonstrates some accuracy in standard English conventions of usage and mechanics.	The text contains multiple inaccuracies in Standard English conventions of usage and mechanics.