

Content Rubric

Criteria	10 – Powerful	8 – Strong	6 – Developing	4 – Emerging	2 – Minimal
Authentic Voice/Style	Personal, unique, and unmistakably genuine; reader <i>feels</i> the writer.	Writer’s voice is clear and engaging.	Voice is present but not fully developed.	Voice is faint or inconsistent.	Lacks a personal voice or perspective.
Emotional Impact	Deeply moving, powerful, or inspiring; stays with the reader.	Evokes emotion or strong interest.	Has moments of depth; somewhat engaging.	Emotion or connection is weak or forced.	Little or no emotional impact.
Creativity & Perspective	Unique angle, surprising insight, or creative storytelling.	Fresh and interesting ideas; some originality.	Reasonable ideas but predictable or safe.	Lacks originality or personal insight.	Unoriginal, generic, or cliché.
Connection to Prompt	Fully explores the chosen prompt with rich personal relevance.	Clearly relates to the prompt with good development.	Generally on topic with some personal connection.	Loosely connected; underdeveloped	Off-topic or missing meaningful connection.
Effort	Clearly crafted with effort; stands out.	Shows strong effort.	Shows decent effort.	Minimal effort.	Very rushed or superficial.

Mechanics Rubric

Criteria	10 – Advanced	8 – Proficient	6 – Developing	4 – Emerging	2 – Beginning
Grammar & Sentence Structure	Mastery of grammar and sentence variety; fluent and sophisticated sentence variety.	Minor grammar errors that don't impede meaning; good sentence variety.	Some grammar errors that may impede meaning; some sentence variety.	Frequent grammar errors that disrupt flow and meaning; minimal sentence variety.	Serious grammar issues throughout; hard to understand. Very simple sentence structures.
Spelling & Punctuation	Accurate use throughout; enhances clarity.	Few minor errors that don't interfere with reading.	Noticeable errors that may impede meaning.	Frequent mistakes interfere with clarity.	Consistent errors that obscure meaning.
Formatting	Follows standard formatting.	Mostly well-structured formatting.	Some formatting.	Disorganized formatting.	No clear formatting followed.
Vocabulary & Word Choice	Precise, vivid, and varied vocabulary that enhances message.	Appropriate word choices; some variety.	Basic vocabulary; occasionally repetitive.	Limited vocabulary; lacks precision.	Inaccurate or overly simple word use.
Readability	Crystal-clear writing with smooth flow and strong transitions.	Clear and understandable with minor issues. Some transitions.	Some confusing parts; transitions weak.	Often unclear or hard to follow.	Disorganized or mostly unreadable.