

Mississippi 7th Grade Writing Rubric

Criteria	1	2	3	4
Focus	attempts to address the writing prompt; may digress from topic	addresses the specific writing prompt; minimally develops the topic	addresses the specific writing prompt; partially develops the topic	addresses the specific writing prompt; fully develops the topic
Audience/Purpose	shows no regard for audience and/or purpose	shows little regard for audience and/or purpose	shows a sense of audience and purpose	shows a sense of audience and purpose
Point of View	does not maintain a consistent point of view	may not maintain a consistent point of view	maintains a consistent point of view	maintains a consistent point of view
Main Idea	does not contain a main idea (thesis) or contains only an implied focus on the topic	contains a vaguely implied main idea (thesis)	contains a stated or implied main idea (thesis)	contains a clearly stated main idea (thesis)
Idea Development	contains vague or no details that support the topic	addresses the main idea with minimal supporting details	has a main idea developed by supporting details that are not consistently well-elaborated	has a main idea developed by supporting details that are well-elaborated
Sequencing	may lack a beginning, middle, and/or end	has a beginning, middle, and end	has a clear beginning, middle, and end	has a clear beginning, middle, and end
Organization	lacks organization; presentation is rambling and repetitive	exhibits some evidence of organization but does not sequence steps consistently and/or does not use transitions	exhibits some logical order; sequences most steps or ideas with transitions	exhibits logical order and appropriate sequencing of steps or ideas with adequate transitions
Language	contains vague and imprecise language (below grade-level vocabulary)	contains some appropriate language; word choice is repetitive (grade-level vocabulary)	contains appropriate language, but word choice may be repetitive (grade-level vocabulary)	contains precise and vivid language (grade-level vocabulary or above)
Paragraphing	may not exhibit indented (or clearly delineated) paragraphing	may not exhibit indented (or clearly delineated) paragraphing	contains a minimum of three indented (or clearly delineated) paragraphs	contains a minimum of three indented (or clearly delineated) paragraphs
Grammar/Usage	exhibits serious errors that may severely impede communication (Grammar/usage includes subject-verb agreement, verb tense, pronoun case and reference, complete and varied sentences)	may contain frequent errors that may impede communication (Grammar/usage includes subject-verb agreement, verb tense, pronoun case and reference, complete and varied sentences)	may contain occasional errors that may detract from the delivery (Grammar/usage includes subject-verb agreement, verb tense, pronoun case and reference, complete and varied sentences)	contains no errors that detract from the overall delivery (Grammar/usage includes subject-verb agreement, verb tense, pronoun case and reference, complete and varied sentences)
Mechanics	contains repeated errors that may severely impede communication (Mechanics include underlining, quotation marks, commas, semicolons, apostrophes, capitalization, spelling)	may contain frequent errors that may impede communication (Mechanics include underlining, quotation marks, commas, semicolons, apostrophes, capitalization, spelling)	may contain some errors that may detract somewhat from delivery (Mechanics include underlining, quotation marks, commas, semicolons, apostrophes, capitalization, spelling)	may contain a few errors, but they do not detract from overall delivery (Mechanics include underlining, quotation marks, commas, semicolons, apostrophes, capitalization, spelling)