

College Application Essay Scoring Rubric

	A	B	C	D or F
Ideas	Writing successfully presents the topic in a novel or unique way. Writing includes excellent and specific concrete detail and insightful commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an interesting way. Writing includes good concrete detail and some insightful commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an ordinary way. Writing includes concrete details, but commentary is obvious, simplistic, or generic.	Writing presents topic in an ordinary way. Concrete details and commentary are either weak or missing.
Organization	Writing has a compelling and logical flow of ideas.	Writing has a logical flow of ideas.	Organization is rough but workable. It sometimes gets off topic.	Writing is aimless and disorganized.
Description	Writing consistently and <u>effectively</u> presents specific and vivid details. However," <i>purple prose</i> is not present in the writing.	Writing presents some specific and vivid details. No <i>purple prose</i> is present.	Writing needs more specific and vivid details.	Writing presents little or no details.
Voice	Writing reveals your unique personality and view of the world, leaving the reader to want to know more about who you are.	Writing reveals some of your thoughts and feelings, but needs more personality behind it.	Writing is bland. There is either no hint of a real person behind the writing. OR Writing sounds like you are trying too hard to impress.	Writing is too informal.
Grammar & Mechanics	Few or no errors in grammar and mechanics.	May contain a significant error in grammar and mechanics, but overall good mastery of grammar and mechanics.	Some significant errors in grammar and mechanics, but not a pattern.	Numerous errors in grammar and mechanics disrupt the flow of ideas.

N.B: The grade can be justified with a single trait.