

Social Studies Writing Rubric

Skill	Strong – 4	Solid - 3	Average - 2	Sub Par - 1
Organization	Skillfully establishes and maintains consistent focus on a clear and compelling thesis Exhibits logical and coherent structure with claims, evidence and interpretations that convincingly support the thesis Makes skillful use of transition words and phrases	Establishes and maintains focus on clear thesis Exhibits a logical sequence of claims evidence and interpretations Uses transitions	Establishes thesis that lacks consistent focus Exhibits a basic structure but lacks consistence claims evidence and interpretations Inconsistent attempts at transitions	Establishes a confused or irrelevant thesis Fails to maintain consistent claims evidence and interpretations Little attempt at transitions
Meaning	Conveys an accurate and in depth understanding of central ideas of unit	Conveys complete understanding of central ideas of unit	Conveys moderate understanding of central ideas of unit	Conveys partially accurate understanding of central ideas of unit
Evidence	Supports the position clearly and fully with arguments that effectively integrate and elaborate specific ideas and textual evidence and a variety of sources	Supports the position adequately with arguments that incorporates and explains ideas, evidence and some sources	Supports the positions with some ideas and textual evidence without much elaboration	Attempts to support the position but textual ideas and evidence are vague
Development	Offers insightful and thorough analysis and explanation in support of the argument or position	Offers adequate analysis and explanation in support of the argument or position	Offers some analysis and explanation in support of the argument or position	Attempts to analyze and explain with partial support of the argument or position
Language	Strong understanding of audience and purpose Strong understanding of question asked Sophisticated language and sentence structure Effectively incorporates grammatical rules	Awareness of audience and purpose Understanding of question asked Attempts sophisticated language and sentence structure Incorporates grammatical rules	Attempts to address audience and purpose Slight understanding of question asked Weak language and sentence structure Attempts to incorporate grammatical rules	Minimal awareness of audience and purpose Minimal understanding of question asked Minimal use of sophisticated language and sentence structure Minimally incorporates grammatical rules