

Old & New Testament Essay Grading Sheet (6+1 Writing Traits)

| CATEGORY | Short Definition | Example: | 4 = Proficient w/ Distinction | 3 = Proficient | 2 = Developing Proficiency | 1 = Novice |
|---------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Ideas * | Clear Main Idea, Good Supporting Evidence | <i>I believe that Jesus could have been tempted, because temptation itself is not a sin. The Bible itself states that Jesus was sinless, and at the same time that he was tempted. Therefore, temptation cannot be a sin.</i> | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. 25 pts | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. 20 pts | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. 15 pts | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. 5 pts |
| Organization | Ordered, Thought-out, Logical | <i>So, in the end, I feel that David was a great king, despite all of his faults.</i> | Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. 15 pts | Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented / introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting. 10 pts | Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. 6 pts | Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. 3 pts |
| Voice | Personal, Original, From Experience | <i>I think the real reason that Jesus' disciples fall asleep is that they didn't realize the importance of the situation. I know that when I feel sleepy during the day it's because I don't think there's anything interesting happening.</i> | The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The author has taken the ideas and made them "his own." 15 pts | The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic. 10 pts | The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic. 6 pts | The writer has not tried to transform the information in a personal way. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else. 3 pts |
| Word Choice | Clear, Natural, Vivid | <i>I immensely appreciate God's vast love. He is a nurturing Shepherd who walks beside me and uses his staff to keep me from harm.</i> | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced. 15 pts | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone. 10 pts | Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair. 6 pts | Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning. 3 pts |
| Fluency | "Easy on the Ear", Natural-Sounding, Sentences aren't Fragments or Run-ons | <i>In times of trouble, I forget God is there, or feel that he has abandoned me. He hasn't.</i> | All sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis. 15 pts | Almost all sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but 1 or 2 are stiff and awkward or difficult to understand. 10 pts | Most sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but several are stiff and awkward or are difficult to understand. 6 pts | The sentences are difficult to read aloud because they sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or difficult to understand. 3 pts |
| Conventions | Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling | <i>There's a reason they're scared: Jesus just told the storm to stop and it stopped.</i> | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. 15 pts | Writer makes few errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. 10 pts | Writer makes some errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. 6 pts | Writer makes many errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. 3 pts |