



The University of Texas at Austin UT High School

Literary Essay / Short Story Rubric

Writing will be scored according to the following three categories: Organization, Development, and Language/Style. Each of these categories is worth a total of ten points possible, as is represented by the score numerals across the top. Scores for each category will be based on how the quality of the writing best fits the descriptions in each category. If writing quality fits best between two descriptions, the boxed numeral between the two categories will be the score for that category. The final score of the essay will be the sum of the three category scores divided by a total of 30 points possible. (See score conversion chart below.)

Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Organization and Plot	Structure of the story is not evident. Few, if any details are evident in the story. Story is confusing and/or incomplete.	Structure of story is hard to follow. Details do not contribute to the storyline. Story is not focused.	Structure of story is evident but often wanders. Some details contribute to story. Story does not maintain focus.	Structure of story for the most part is appropriate. Most details contribute to story. Generally, the story maintains focus.	Structure of story is clear and compelling. All details contribute to the storyline. Story sustains a clear focus.					
Development of Storyline	Little development of a story is evident. Storyline is minimal or nonexistent.	Development of the story is weak. Story has no depth.	Development of the story is minimal. Story is trite.	Development of the story is for the most part appropriate. Story is original.	Development of the story is robust and characters seem real. Story is engaging and thoughtful.					
Language/Style	Word choice does not match task. No sentence boundaries. Grammar errors disrupt fluency of the story.	Word choice is vague. Sentence structure is awkward. Grammar errors distract from the story.	Word choice is somewhat appropriate, but lacking in precision. Grammar errors are present but not distracting.	Word choice is clear and contributes to an appropriate tone. Grammar errors are minor and not distracting.	Word choice and sentence structure are precise, purposeful, and contribute to the overall quality of the essay.					

30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
100	97	93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	57	53	50	47	43	40	37	33	30	27	23	20	17	13	10	7	3