AREA A2 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (FIRST -YEAR COMPOSITION) RUBRIC

Description: Proficiency in written communication in English at the A2 level (first-year composition) is demonstrated through reflection and the use of rhetorical knowledge, organization, development, language and mechanics, formatting, and documentation.

Framing Language: This rubric is used to assess signature assignments included in the A2 portfolio, namely the reflective letter and one of the argumentative essays. These signature assignments are aligned to the rubric. The Reflection and Local Features of Writing Products dimensions of this rubric should be used to assess the reflection letter. Each dimension except the Reflection dimension should be used to assess the argumentative essay.

Development: A draft of this A2 rubric was first developed by faculty in the Department of English in May 2018 and used for a pilot assessment of A2 in May 2019. This pilot informed revisions to the rubric, which were completed on June 5, 2019 by the English faculty who served as assessors in the pilot project.

	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS BY LEVEL			
DIMENSION	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Reflection *Reflects on one's own learning, intellectual evolution, and ongoing challenges as an academic reader, writer, thinker*	Using appropriate strategies and evidence, clearly reflects on the development of composing practices and how those practices influence writing.	Adequately reflects on the development of composing practices and how those practices influence writing using some evidence.	Somewhat reflects on the development of composing practices and how those practices influence writing using minimal evidence.	Demonstrates limited reflection on the development of composing practices and how those practices influence writing using little to no evidence or inappropriate evidence.
Rhetorical Knowledge *Addresses contexts and audiences and establishes voice in the creation of texts*	Clearly illustrates a consistent ability to develop and maintain an intended purpose and appropriate voice for an identified rhetorical situation, genre, and audience.	Generally illustrates an ability to develop and maintain an intended purpose and appropriate voice for an identified rhetorical situation, genre, and audience.	Somewhat illustrates an ability to develop and maintain an intended purpose and appropriate voice for an identified rhetorical situation, genre, and audience.	Rarely illustrates an ability to develop and maintain an intended purpose and appropriate voice for an identified rhetorical situation, genre, and audience.

Organization *Uses coherent global and local structure*	Clearly organizes and develops writing around a controlling idea by providing logical and sophisticated connections that help to progress a coherent train of thought.	Generally organizes and develops writing around a controlling idea by providing logical connections that help to progress a coherent train of thought.	Somewhat organizes and develops writing around a controlling idea by providing some connections that help to progress a train of thought.	Rarely organizes and develops writing around a controlling idea.
Development *Uses evidence and strategies in support of the rhetorical situation*	Clearly explores issue(s) and/or text(s); effectively uses evidence and strategies appropriate to the rhetorical situation and in service of a controlling idea.	Adequately explores issue(s) and/or text(s); uses evidence and strategies generally appropriate to the rhetorical situation.	Somewhat explores issue(s) and/or text(s); uses some evidence and strategies somewhat appropriate to the rhetorical situation.	Minimally explores issue(s) and/or text(s); uses little evidence and few strategies, or exploration is inappropriate given the rhetorical situation.
Local Features of Writing Products *Use of language and mechanics*	Uses sophisticated language and varied sentence structure; contains minimal mechanical errors.	Uses suitable language and some variation in sentence structure; contains some mechanical errors.	Uses somewhat suitable language and limited variation in sentence structure; contains many mechanical errors.	Uses unsuitable language; contains many mechanical errors that detract from the meaning of the writing product.
Formatting and Documentation	Correctly formats manuscript and precisely documents any included source(s).	Correctly formats manuscript and generally documents any included source(s).	Shows errors in the formatting of the manuscript and gaps in the documentation of source(s).	Incorrectly formats the manuscript and does not document or does not include source(s).