

## Rubric for Essays, Reports and Articles

Level 1: Ideas: Truth	An "A" Paper	A "C" paper	a "D" paper	
Unity	Each paragraph has a main point and all the sentences in that paragraph contribute to it. All the paragraphs relate to the controlling idea (thesis).	The essay has a controlling idea and most paragraphs have topic sentences, but some things don't fit.	The includes information or details that don't support the main point.	
Development	Ideas are fleshed out with enough examples, facts, reasons, comparisons, statistics, or descriptions.	Development is sometimes scanty, though some thoughts may be well supported.	Ideas or opinions are offered without much explanation or support.	
Coherence	The writing is organized, following a plan that the reader can perceive.	The writing is organized around a sound plan, but it isn't always followed.	The writing wanders from point to point or jumps to various topics.	
Level 2: Style : Beauty				
Clarity	Ideas are expressed vividly. Sentences have a rhythm that makes them easy to understand. Point of view is under control.	Most sentences are clear and rhythmic, but there are occasional lapses. Point of view occasionally shifts unnecessarily. "You" is used vaguely.	It's not clear what the writer's point is. Point of view shifts randomly. Rhythms are awkward, interfering with comprehension.	
Conciseness	Writing is free of deadwood, redundancy, and unnecessary wordiness. No blather.	Writing is easy to read but could still benefit from tightening. Some blather.	Sentences contain deadwood, padding and weak repetition. Lots of blather.	
Parallelism	Elements that serve a parallel function are expressed in the same grammatical form.	Sometimes parallelism is used, but it is not under complete control.	Writer seems unaware of parallelism.	
Active Voice	In most cases, sentences are written in active voice.	Much of the writing is in active voice, but much is also in passive voice.	Writer habitually writes in passive voice.	
Elegance	Everything necessary is present. Everything present is necessary.	Most of what is needed is present. Most of what is present is needed.	Important things are missing. Unnecessary things are present.	
Level 3: Correctness				
Conventions	Few or no errors of capitalization, spelling, or comma usage.	Some errors, but mostly in unusual or complex sentences.	Many errors of capitalization, spelling, and comma usage.	
Sentence structure	No run-on sentences. No sentence fragments. Subjects agree with verbs. Pronouns agree with antecedents.	A few agreement errors, but only in complex or unusual sentences.		

**Michael L. Umphrey**