

EXAMPLE: RUBRIC FOR A “WHAT IS TRAGEDY?” PAPER

	Content (counts double)	Reasoning	Clarity of Writing
4	A clear definition of tragedy is stated and forms the thesis on which the paper is based. A large amount of detailed information is presented to support the thesis. All material is relevant, and some exceptionally thoughtful connections are made.	The paper is logically organized, which helps relate the supporting details to the definition of tragedy. The reason(s) why details from the plays support the definition of tragedy are explicitly stated. Some of the supporting details are from analyses across more than one tragedy.	The paper presents a polished piece of writing, using language conventions to advantage to help communicate meaning. A few minor errors in grammar or usage do not interfere with meaning. A reader can understand the argument throughout the paper.
3	A clear definition of tragedy is stated and forms the thesis on which the paper is based. Detailed information is presented to support the thesis. All material is relevant.	The paper is logically organized, which helps relate the supporting details to the definition of tragedy. The reason(s) why details from the plays support the definition of tragedy may be stated or implied. A few of the supporting details are from analyses across more than one tragedy.	The paper presents a polished piece of writing, using language conventions appropriately. Some minor errors in grammar or usage do not interfere with meaning. A reader can understand the argument throughout the paper, although some transition words or other small elements may be missing.
2	The definition of tragedy may be somewhat unclear, making it difficult to tell how much of the supporting material is relevant. At least some information is presented to support the thesis.	The paper is not clearly organized. It may be difficult to figure out why certain details from the plays are included.	The paper resembles a draft or work in progress, and language conventions are often not used appropriately. Errors in grammar or usage begin to interfere with meaning. A reader cannot always understand the argument.
1	The definition of tragedy is not clear. Some details and information from the plays may be presented, but it is not tied to a clear definition of tragedy and contains errors of fact.	The paper is not clearly organized. Details from the plays are not included or are misinterpreted.	Major errors of grammar and usage make meaning unclear. Language conventions are not used appropriately.

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