

# Analytic Writing Continuum

## Ideas

May announce the topic but has no central focus. Reflects minimal or no control or development of ideas or content



A discernible focus with limited development of ideas and content. Ideas somewhat support central theme but can be poorly developed or list-like



Clear and consistently focused with outstanding control and development of ideas and content

## Organization

Lacks a sense of direction, with details and ideas that are strung together without apparent structure. May be too brief.



Organization that is adequate for central theme. Formulaic or predictable structure that may be occasionally erratic with a predictable conclusion.



Organization enhances central idea or theme. Writing flows smoothly with transitions between ideas and paragraphs. Compelling opening and outstanding closing.

## Voice

Unclear perspective, point-of-view or argument. Flat tone and lacking in purpose.



Sporadically or unevenly demonstrates a clear perspective, point-of-view or argument. Demonstrates uneven tone or style.



Clear perspective, point-of-view or argument. A distinctive tone or style.

## Sentence Fluency

Choppy, irregular, rambling or awkward sentences. Includes inappropriate fragments or unclear, illogical sentences.



Little flow or rhythm, with rigid or mechanical phrasing. Little variation in sentence structure and may lack transitions between sentences.



A sophisticated rhythm and cadence with various sentence structures and transitions between sentences.

## Word Choice

Limited vocabulary and redundant words and phrases. Contains words that are used incorrectly.



Contains words that are sometimes clear and precise, primarily simple but adequate. Bland verbs or commonplace nouns. May include imagery or figurative language that is overused or ineffective.



Contains powerful words and expression that are vivid, varied and precise. Lively verbs and creative words. May include imagery and metaphors.

## Conventions

Contains many errors of a variety of types scattered throughout the writing



Limited control of grammar and punctuation or control of very limited examples of grammar and punctuation.



Error-free and includes a wide range of verb tenses, punctuation, and stylistic devices.