

0307/0326 NHMCCD COMMON FINAL RUBRIC**An Essay That Exceeds Expectations (4 points)**

- Addresses topic, audience and purpose; consistently develops the controlling idea; has a clear thesis or controlling idea; includes relevant and well-developed supporting details
- Is well-organized and logically sequenced throughout; contains well-organized paragraphs; effectively connects ideas between and within paragraphs
- Contains excellent sentence structure and sentence variety, with few mistakes; clear and consistent control over sentence-boundary rules (fragments, comma splices, and fused sentences)
- Contains few or no errors in agreement, word forms or shifts; the writer has clear command of these elements of usage
- Demonstrates correct capitalization and punctuation; contains few or no spelling errors

An Essay That Meets Passing Standards (3 points)

- Addresses topic, audience and purpose but may occasionally stray from topic; might have a few inconsistent facts or concepts; has a focused thesis or controlling idea; includes major supporting details that are adequately developed
- Is adequately organized and sequenced; contains fairly well-organized paragraphs; makes appropriate connections of ideas between and within paragraphs
- Demonstrates good control over sentence-boundary rules (fragments, comma splices, and fused sentences), but may contain several errors in sentence structure. The writer shows some difficulty in varying sentence structure
- Demonstrates good control over agreement, word forms or shifts; the essay may, however, contain several errors in these elements of usage
- Demonstrates generally correct capitalization and punctuation; may contain several spelling errors, but few or no errors involving common words

An Essay That Approaches Passing Standards (2 points)

- Does not consistently demonstrate understanding of audience and purpose; displays factual, interpretive or conceptual inconsistencies; veers from the topic; leaves some ideas underdeveloped or unsupported; contains an unfocused or vague thesis
- Is inadequately organized and sequenced; has disorganized paragraphs; makes inadequate connection of ideas between and within paragraphs
- Contains many errors in sentence structure so that the writer's command of sentence-boundary rules cannot be determined; there may be many fragments, comma splices or fused sentences; shows inadequate sentence variety
- Shows inadequate control of the rules regarding agreement, word forms and shifts
- Demonstrates incorrect and inconsistent use of capitalization and punctuation rules; may contain many spelling errors, even of common words

An Essay That Does Not Meet Passing Standards (1 point)

- Shows no understanding of audience and purpose; does not respond to the demands of the assignment or is off-topic; has significantly confusing or inconsistent concepts or interpretations; has a vague or missing thesis; has inadequate support
- Lacks organization and sequence; contains incoherent paragraphs, undeveloped paragraphs, or no paragraphs; makes little or no connection of ideas between and within paragraphs
- Demonstrates carelessness or a lack of awareness regarding sentence boundary rules; sentence construction is haphazard, so that many fragments, comma splices or fused sentences may be present; contains little or no sentence variety
- Demonstrates little or no command over rules regarding agreement, word forms or shifts
- Does not demonstrate knowledge of the rules regarding capitalization and punctuation ; may contain many spelling errors, even of common words