

Name: _____

Date: _____

NCS D College/Scholarship Essay Rubric

ODE	IDEAS AND CONTENT		ORGANIZATION	SENTENCE FLUENCY	CONVENTIONS
	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Elaboration of Evidence	Organizational Structure	Language, Vocabulary, Fluency	Usage, Mechanics, Grammar
Exceeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling idea or main idea is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained Main idea is framed within the context of the experience/topic Essay prompt is answered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response has thorough and convincing support for the main idea which may include: evidence, facts, narrative details Response has substantial depth that is specific and relevant to main idea Effective use of elaborative and/or narrative techniques that illustrate the experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness Clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas or events Strong connections among ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response clearly and effectively expresses ideas using precise language Effective use of sensory, concrete, figurative language Demonstrates a variety of sentence structures Vocabulary clearly appropriate for audience/purpose Concise; avoids wordiness and superfluous language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong command of conventions Few, if any, errors are present in usage or sentence formation Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present Some context is provided Essay prompt is answered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response provides adequate support for the main idea which may include: Evidence, facts, narrative details Response has depth that is specific and relevant to main idea Adequate use of elaborative and/or narrative techniques that illustrate the experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response has an evident organizational structure, though some ideas may be loosely connected Adequate use of transitional strategies Adequate progression of ideas or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response adequately expresses ideas using a mix of precise language with more general language Adequate use of sensory, concrete, figurative language Vocabulary generally appropriate for audience/purpose Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure Concise; avoids wordiness and superfluous language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate command of conventions Some usage errors may be present, but these do not impede the reader Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
Nearly Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response may be clearly focused on the main idea, but is insufficiently sustained Controlling idea or main idea may be unclear and somewhat unfocused Strays from the essay prompt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response provides inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or narrative details Details and support are not specific and/or relevant to main idea Narrative or elaborative techniques not utilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response has an inconsistent organizational structure and flaws may be present Little variety in transitions Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end Weak connection between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response expresses ideas unevenly using simplistic language or superfluous language Partial or ineffective use of sensory, concrete, figurative language Vocabulary may not be appropriate for audience and purpose Lacks variety in sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial command of conventions Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
Working Towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response provides little or no focus May be very brief May not answer the essay prompt Focus is ambiguous or confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response provides little or no evidence or details to support the main idea Minimal elaboration Irrelevant details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response has little or no organizational structure No transitional strategies are evident Demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expression of ideas in Response lack clarity, are vague or confusing Little sense of audience/purpose Very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice to express ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of command of conventions Errors are frequent and severe Meaning is obscured due to errors