

Evaluating the Definition Essay

1. Was the writer's purpose in this piece clearly to *define* rather than persuade, compare or contrast, other?
Circle one. Yes - Generally - Somewhat - No
2. Was the writer's thesis statement clear and well worded?
Circle one. Yes - Generally - Somewhat - No
3. Did the introduction catch your attention and make you want to read the essay? Circle one. Yes No
4. Did the essay contain one or more of the following: history of word, examples, contrasts, allusions, definition by negation, definition by class?
Circle one. Yes No
5. Is the extended definition colorful and interesting? Circle one. Yes No

Directions: Rate the critical elements of essay using keys at the right and then calculate a final score using the formula below.

		Key
$\frac{\text{ } \times 10 = \text{ } }{\text{ } }$	Focus	5 Focused, purposeful & reflects insight 4 Focused, on topic and includes few, if any, loosely related ideas 3 Focused but may contain ideas that are loosely connected to the topic 2 Addresses topic but may lose focus by including extraneous or loosely related ideas 1 Addresses topic but may lose focus by including extraneous or loosely related ideas
$\frac{\text{ } \times 2 = \text{ } }{\text{ } }$	Organization	5 Powerfully organized 4 Logical Progression of Ideas 3 Transitional devices strengthen organization 2 Lacks logical progression of ideas 1 Has an organizational pattern, but may lack completeness or closure
$\frac{\text{ } \times 4 = \text{ } }{\text{ } }$	Conventions	5 Few errors, sentence structure varied 4 Sentence structure varied 3 Occasional errors; word choice is adequate 2 Errors in basic conventions, but common words are spelled correctly 1 Frequent and blatant errors in basic conventions; commonly used words may be misspelled
$\frac{\text{ } \times 4 = \text{ } }{\text{ } }$	Support	5 Superior understanding 4 Specific Details 3 Lacks specificity and support is loosely developed 2 Development of support is uneven 1 Little, if any, development of the supporting ideas; support may consist of generalizations or fragmentary lists.

Comments and suggestions for improvement: