

College Essay Rubric

Directions: Rank each aspect of the college application essay on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 as the best. In the space below each numeric value you assign, explain your reasoning. At the bottom, circle your admissions recommendation, based on the essay alone.

Organization and Focus (clear main ideas and supporting details, stays on topic)

1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

Originality (vivid details, fresh word choice, creativity, risk-taking)

1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

Writer's Voice (consistent throughout, engaging, conveys individual personality)

1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

Freedom from Error (spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage)

1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

Overall success (interesting topic clearly developed; "works")

1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

Admission (circle one): **accept** **reject** **wait-list**