General Writing Rubric

CRITERIA and STANDARDS	*No* **1** A paper in this category shows a **consistent pattern of weakness** in using the tools of language. It exhibits some or all of the following characteristics:	*No, but…* **2** A paper in this category shows a **less than adequate** command of the tools of language. It exhibits some or all of the following characteristics:	*Yes, but…* **3** A paper in this category shows an **adequate** command of the tools of language. It exhibits some or all of the following characteristics:	*Yes* **4** A paper in this category shows a **superior** command of the tools of language. It exhibits some or all of the following characteristics:
Focus, Organization	o evidence of attempt to respond to prompt, o no evidence of attentiveness to audience, o focus on topic not sustained, o no opening or closing, o piece is not complete.	o responds partially to the prompt but is off target in some way, o may not show evidence of attentiveness to audience, o focus on topic not consistently sustained, o some lack of distinction between main ideas and details, o order of ideas not effective, o may be no opening sentence; no attention to closing, o piece seems incomplete.	o responds to the prompt, o appropriate to the audience, o focus not clear at every point, o some main points underdeveloped, o ideas may not be in the most effective order, o an opening, but not necessarily focused or attention getting; attempt at a closing, o sense of completeness.	o responds to the prompt o appropriate to the audience o single, distinct focus o generally well-developed ideas or narrative o logical flow of ideas or events o opening that draws in reader; effective closing o sense of completeness
Elaboration, Support, Style	o half or more of main ideas not supported by details, o half or more details may be irrelevant, o no transitions, o sentence style choppy, o vocabulary limited.	o uneven development; narrative details sketchy o details may appear to be listed rather than integrated into coherent flow o some details are irrelevant o few or no transitions o most sentences simple; overall style choppy o word choice adequate to convey meaning but few precise or vivid words	o each main idea supported by details, but details in some paragraphs may be sketchy; narrative details sufficient to flesh out events, o all details related to topic o some details not used effectively, o transitions used, o varied sentence style o word choice adequate to convey meaning; some precise, vivid words.	o each main idea supported by details; narrative brought to life by details, o all details related to topic o choice of details effective, o ideas/events related by effective transition words and phrases, o varied sentence style o precise, interesting, and vivid word choice.
Grammar, Usage, Mechanics	o number and type of errors obscure meaning, o inadequate grasp of Standard English, o frequent errors in spelling, capitalization, and usage, o many run-ons or fragments, o serious and frequent punctuation errors.	o number and type of errors may interfere with meaning at some points, o weaknesses in command of Standard English o some spelling, capitalization, or usage errors, o some fragments or run-ons, o some errors in punctuation.	o number and type of errors not sufficient to interfere with meaning, o consistent command of Standard English, o few, if any, spelling, capitalization, or usage errors, o competence in coordination and subordination.	o sophisticated and consistent command of Standard English, o free of spelling, capitalization, and usage errors, o precise syntax, o competence in coordination and subordination, o few, if any, errors in punctuation.