

STYLE: Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Voice

Key Questions: *Would you keep reading this essay if it were longer? Do the words, phrases, and sentences enrich the content and allow the reader to move through the writing with ease?*

Score Point	4	3	2	1
WORD CHOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of language is purposeful and reinforces the writer's position. Word choice is precise, effective, and includes some striking words and phrases as appropriate to the task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of language is appropriate and communicates the writer's position. Word choice is fitting; includes some interesting words and phrases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of language is generic and does nothing to strengthen the writer's position. Word choice is limited and/or repetitive. Many words are used incorrectly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is simple and/or may be inappropriate to the task. Word choice is basic; words are used incorrectly. Essay is too brief to provide an adequate sample of writing; minimal attempt.
SENTENCE FLUENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are fluent and vary in length, structure, and beginnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are generally varied in length and structure, and most sentences have varied beginnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences show little or no variety in length and structure and some may be awkward or lack fluency. Many sentences begin the same way leading to a monotonous reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sentences are simple and lack variety, and their construction makes the response confusing and difficult to read.
VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's voice (individual personality) is compelling and engaging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's voice is present but may not be particularly compelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's voice is weak and/or inconsistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voice is not evident.