

# Essay Rubric

Note: A given piece of writing is composed of a great variety of related and interwoven elements, all of which contribute to its overall quality. A rubric is a tool developed to assist in the evaluation of individual writing components while at the same time increasing the reliability of final scores assigned to essay assignments or examinations. Evaluators should assign a final score to each essay which best describes the overall quality of each student's work based on these criteria. It is expected that there will be some variance between evaluators in discussing different components of each paper; however, **evaluators must agree on final scores..**

Writing Component Evaluation Criteria	5 – 6	7 – 8	9 – 10
<b>Meets with general goals of PCM</b>	some integration, but awkward, artificial, sparse, or somewhat superficial	ideas from various PCM sessions and readings mentioned, but could be more adequately explored or smoothly woven into discussion	very successful/exceptional integration of text, PCM readings, preceptor experiences with personal reflections on text
<b>Addresses specific objectives of the assignment</b>	some objectives addressed but not all and/or objectives not completely addressed	most objectives addressed in a complete manner	all objectives addressed completely in a thorough manner
<b>Demonstrates thinking regarding role as future physician</b>	few reflections on or analysis of how issues relate to future role as physician	good understanding of how issues relate in general to physician role, but limited exploration of personal impact	excellent ability to personalize issues; exceptional insight into relevance of issues to own future role as physician
<b>Depth of Reflection</b>	somewhat superficial treatment of issues with few insights	topics explored in sufficient depth to acknowledge complexity of issues	topics explored in sufficient depth to acknowledge complexity of issues and successfully grapple with them
<b>Demonstrates original thinking including style and voice</b>	few original ideas--content mostly synopsis or rehashing of author's ideas, style simplistic or inflated; voice inauthentic or inconsistent	some original insights and/or creative approaches to issues; style straightforward and appropriate to purpose of writing; voice authentic and consistent	strikingly original ideas and/or creative approaches to issues enable reader to gain new insights; impressive style demonstrating skillful command of language and description; voice both authentic and compelling
<b>Demonstrates logical reasoning, clarity, and focus</b>	unsupported generalizations or conclusions due to illogical reasoning or lack of sufficient analysis; fairly vague or general--at times not easy to decipher points being made	attempts made to analyze components of issues; conclusions are fairly well supported by logical reasoning, evidence, or explanations; topics defined; discussions seldom stray from issues at hand	excellent/exceptional demonstration of both analytic and synthetic reasoning--fine distinctions are made, complexities of issues explored; extremely clear and focused writing--issues thoroughly explored with economy of expression
<b>Demonstrates development of essay, organization, and coherence</b>	ideas sketchily outlined or unsupported due to lack of specific examples or concrete details; writing is difficult to follow due to garbled sentence structure, jumbled ideas, or disorganized sequencing	ideas developed through use of examples and/or details; writing organized and easy to follow	ideas skillfully developed and illustrated through the selective use of excellent examples and well chosen details; writing is consistently coherent and organized in a most effective manner with a clear beginning, middle, and satisfying conclusion
<b>Mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation)</b>	difficulties with basic mechanics interfere with ability to effectively communicate	mechanical errors--though apparently due to oversight--detract from an otherwise credible piece of writing	very careful editing and proofing; correct and even masterful use of writing mechanics--punctuation sophisticated and allows for fine nuances of expression