

Spouse and Student Scholarship Essay Rubric

Student Number: _____

Score: _____ out of 20

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Support for Topic	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the essay is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the essay are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Focus on Topic (Content)	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general.	Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Adding Personality (Voice)	The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The author has taken the ideas and made them \"his own.\"	The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic.	The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic.	The writer has not tried to transform the information in a personal way. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else.
Conclusion (Organization)	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand the message the writer is trying to convey.	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
Follows Directions	Writer followed the directions of the essay: 12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, ID Number in the top right hand corner, each page numbered.	Writer followed most of the directions. Writer made one error in following directions.	Writer followed some of the directions of the essay. Writer made two errors in following the directions.	Writer made more than three errors in following the directions.

