

TAKS Writing Rubric

	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4
FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not focused on one topic Abrupt shifts Hard to understand Seems incomplete Poor introduction & conclusion No introduction & conclusion Many off topic ideas Weakly connected to prompt Lacks transitions from idea to idea and from paragraph to paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhat focused on topic Quick shifts, but understandable Some completeness Weak introduction and conclusion Some off topic ideas Connected to prompt Better transitions to connect ideas & paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly focused on one topic Few quick shifts Easy to understand Good sense of completeness Introduction & conclusion add some depth & meaning Very few off topic ideas Good connection to prompt Good transitions to connect ideas and paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very focused on one topic No quick shifts Very easy to understand Excellent sense of completeness Introduction & conclusion add a lot of depth and meaning No off topic ideas Strong connection to prompt Strong transitions to connect ideas and paragraphs
ORGANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order does not make sense Organization not evident Difficult to follow Wordiness or repetition stalls ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order not always smooth Organization does not work Somewhat difficult to follow Wordiness or repetition, but ideas not stopped completely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order smooth & controlled Organization works Mostly easy to follow Wordiness or repetition is a minor problem that does not stop ideas at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order is smooth & controlled Organization is strong Very easy to follow No wordiness or repetition
DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some ideas presented, but not developed with elaboration and examples Vague, unconnected details & examples Retells a familiar story or TV show Leaves out important information that leaves gaps in ideas and paragraphs that stop understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas too list-like with only brief details Little depth and originality in adding details Some information left out that leaves small gaps in ideas and paragraphs; does not stop understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tries to develop ideas, but doesn't develop all ideas Some overall depth and thoughtfulness is evident No gaps, but little creativity and risk taking in developing ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each idea is well developed Depth of thought; much thoughtfulness evident No gaps; good creativity and originality of ideas with risk taking evident that adds to strength of piece
VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not interesting Little or no sense of voice or the writer's personality Does not sound original or unique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moments when interesting, but not mostly Some voice, but not mostly Some parts sound original and unique, but mostly not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly interesting Voice throughout most Most parts sound original and unique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interesting throughout Voice throughout Original and unique
MECHANICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe and frequent errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation Sentence structure causes it to be unclear or confusing Errors weaken it Words misused or omitted Awkward sentences Hard to understand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation Sentence structure not clear Errors weaken somewhat Simple or inaccurate words Some awkward sentences Limited understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good command of spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation Good sentence structure Minor errors; slightly weakens the story Well chosen words add to ideas Very few awkward sentences Good understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent command of spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation Consistent sentence structure Minor errors with complex ideas Word choice strong Sentence structure strong Strong understanding of ideas