A Student Guide to Using Criterion for Self-Evaluation, Goal Setting, and Writing Improvement

Using *Criterion*® Feedback

Review all *Criterion*® features and interpret your *Criterion*® results.

- Go through the rubric and compare your score to the top rubric score. What is your essay missing? What do you need to do better?
- Review the rollover notes from Criterion and your reviewers. What corrections and additions do you need to make to your essay?
- Use the Writer's Handbook for more information on identified errors in your essay. Read the lessons and examples and put them to use.
- Use Dialogue to communicate with your instructor and peer reviewers.
- Remember that *Criterion*® doesn't score your content. Is your thesis clear? Are your main ideas clear and do they support your thesis statement? Have you used the best reasons, details and facts to develop your ideas?
- Review the "Before You Click Submit" checklist. Carefully consider each question and how you can improve your essay.

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Go through this checklist before submitting each attempt.

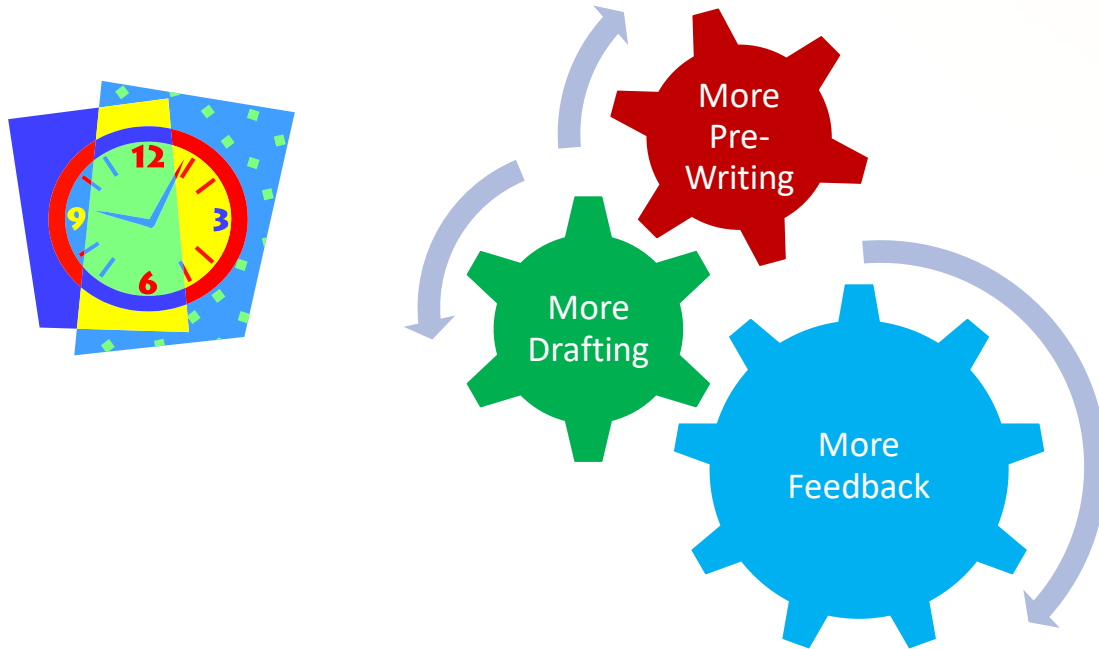# Before you click Submit

Recheck the content of your essay by asking yourself these questions:

1. *Do I have an introductory paragraph that creates interest in the essay, lets the reader know the general topic and tells the reader the main idea (thesis) of the essay?*

2. *Have I used topic sentences to address each of my main ideas and to announce the idea of each paragraph, tell the reader where the essay is going or to make a bridge between two paragraphs or main ideas?*

3. *Do my supporting ideas help to convince the reader that my main ideas are good ones? Have I told a story, given examples, reasons, details, or used metaphors or analogies to help the reader understand my ideas?*

4. *Do I have a concluding paragraph that restates my thesis, summarizes my main points and leaves the reader thinking about my topic?*

5. *Did I use transitional words and phrases to take the reader smoothly from one idea to the next?*

What does it take to become a better writer?

More Pre-Writing

More Drafting

More Feedback

Practice! Practice! Practice!

Reviewing Your *Criterion* ® Score

Carefully consider your *Criterion* ® Score feedback. Use the rubric button to compare your score to the highest possible score and evaluate what elements of your essay need improvement to gain that highest score. Record your greatest strength and greatest weakness in the essay in the Dialogue box on your essay for future reference and to share in the dialogue with your reviewers.

Score Analysis   **Feedback Analysis**

The Criterion score reflects the overall quality of the writing. It is a single numerical score given to the essay as a whole. Scores range from 1 to 6 or 1 to 4, with 1 being the lowest score.
The Criterion score is aligned to each grade/level based on models built from essays previously scored by human readers. The Criterion score should never be equated with a grade or mark which takes into account everything about the essay, including content.

Rubric

Criterion Score

5/6

You are doing well. Your essay may be ready for your teacher (or a peer) to review, but before you decide you are finished

1) Think about what you have written. Is the content as good as it could be? Criterion doesn't evaluate your content, only your writing style.

2) Think about your language. Have you chosen your words carefully? Have you made sure that the sentences are clear and easy to understand? Is there any way you could make your essay shorter without losing any important content?

3) Proofread! At this level, you especially need to look for errors Criterion may have missed.

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Reviewing Your Trait Levels

Review your Trait Levels for the essay. Open and read the Trait Level Handbook for more information on these scores. Set goals to move each of these scores to Proficient and then Advanced by the end of the term or year. Focus on these areas one at a time.

Trait Levels

Word Choice
Proficient
Acceptable: Your word choices mostly make sense. You might want to consider using a thesaurus and a dictionary to find the strongest possible words to express your intended meaning.

Grammar, Usage and Mechanics - Conventions
Proficient
Acceptable: Check any issues that Criterion has identified in your essay. It may benefit from careful editing.

Organization, Development and Style
Proficient
Acceptable: You have made a good start, but there is room for improvement. Make sure that you have provided all the elements that Criterion expects in a well-developed essay.

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Viewing your feedback

PLAN | RESPONSE | **RESULTS** | Export

Score Analysis | **Feedback Analysis**

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Criterion Score

Writer's Sample | Score Guide

Rubric

5/6

You have solid writing skills and something interesting to say.
Your essay:
Responds more effectively to some parts of the topic or task than to other parts

- Shows some depth and complexity in your thinking
- Organizes and develops your ideas with reasons and examples that are appropriate
- Uses the range of language and syntax available to you
- Uses grammar, mechanics, or sentence structure with hardly any error

Trait Levels

Trait Level Handbook

Word Choice	Grammar, Usage and Mechanics - Conventions	Organization, Development and Style
Proficient	**Proficient**	**Proficient**
the Proficient level contains simple words used correctly with some specific word choices.	Writing at the Proficient level contains some errors, but they do not generally prevent understanding.	Writing at the Proficient level provides a clear sequence of pieces of information that are related to each other. Sentences are simple, but some sentence variety is demonstrated.

View your *Criterion* ® Score.

Click to view the full rubric.

View your Trait Level scores.

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View the Feedback Analysis Chart

Examine the graph for the number of potential errors identified in the essay. By clicking on each bar and drilling down, you can view the Writer's Handbook Section on the error. Examine what the assignment stats say about your word choice and sentence variety and length.
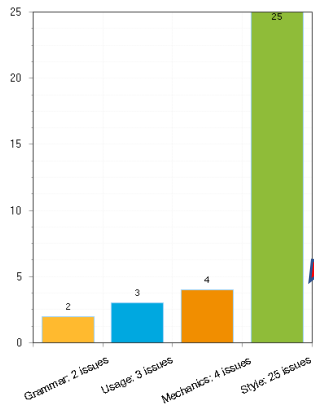
Score Analysis   Feedback Analysis   ← Click here.

Trait feedback is provided in five key categories: Organization & Development, Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Style. The feedback is used to guide the process of revision. The graphic summary of error types shows the number of errors for each type. The roll-over message gives a brief description of the error and guidance for its correction. The context-sensitive section of the Writer's Handbook pertains to the error and provides a more complete "lesson" on the error and its correction.

All Feedback

Writer's Handbook

Trait Feedback Analysis

Writer's Handbook
Section: Grammar

Purpose of this section

This section provides information on the following grammar errors:

- Fragments
- Run-on Sentences
- Garbled Sentences
- Subject-Verb Agreement Errors
- Verb Form Errors
- Pronoun Errors
- Possessive Errors
- Wrong or Missing Words
- Proofread This!

Criterion can provide feedback on many grammatical and sentence structure errors, but not all of them. Use this section to help you correct errors. Check with your instructor if you do not understand how to revise the errors that are highlighted.

Some grammar errors are caused by misspelling or mistakes in typing. When *Criterion* identifies a typing or spelling error that might be causing a grammar error, the feedback message will let you know. The feedback in *Proofread This!* points out errors that are difficult to name or classify. Often these errors occur when a word is missing, an extra word is added, or the wrong form of the word is used.

View the Writer's Handbook.

Bars indicate the number of errors in each trait category. Click the bar to see a breakdown by specific error types.

Average Number of Words per Sentence: 19.1
Total Number of Sentences: 22
Unique Words Count: 134
Total Number of Words: 420

View the stats for your assignment. How many unique words have you used in this essay?

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View specific trait feedback for your essay

Check the color coding in your essay. Are there missing elements—<mark style="background-color: yellow">yellow</mark>- introduction, <mark style="background-color: red">red</mark>- thesis, <mark style="background-color: cyan">blue</mark>- main ideas, <mark style="background-color: green">green</mark>- supporting details and <mark style="background-color: orange">orange</mark>- conclusion? Go carefully through the organization and development tab and read and think about the rollover notes for each of the building blocks of your essay. Use the Writer's Handbook for more information. Read all dialogue comments from your reviewers.

From the Response tab, click on each of the categories to view specific feedback on your essay. Errors will be highlighted and roll over notes will provide information on each error.

Click the Writer's Handbook for more information on any identified error.

Review your errors

Instructor and Peer Review

View instructor and peer Dialogue.

Select a reviewer for Comments.

Roll your cursor over highlighted text to view comments.

Revise your essay

Review all error feedback provided in the left screen and make your corrections to the clean copy of your essay on the right. When all errors have been corrected, review the content of your essay for further needed improvement. Check the rubric for guidelines. If you still have questions, leave a note for your instructor or peer reviewers by clicking the Dialogue button. Remember to review "Before you click Submit" and to Save before you Submit a new attempt.

Before you click Submit

Recheck the content of your essay by asking yourself these questions:

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4. *Do I have a concluding paragraph that restates my thesis, summarizes my main points and leaves the reader thinking about my topic?*

5. *Did I use transitional words and phrases to take the reader smoothly from one idea to the next?*

Analyze Your Results

- What improvements have you made in the current attempt? Be specific.

- What improvements are still needed? Identify improvements you will make before your next attempt is submitted.

- Are there missing details that could make any of your main ideas clearer?

- Did you leave the reader thinking or smiling with your final comment?

- Set a goal for your next attempt or next essay. What score would you like to earn? What will you have to do earn that score?

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