

Writing Rubric
Roman Encyclopedia Article

Name:

Section:

Criteria:	Outstanding (10)	Good (9 or 8)	Satisfactory (7)	Minimally Acceptable (6)	Unacceptable (5 and below)
Ideas & Content (3X)	The article is clear and focused. The main idea is clearly and thoroughly presented and shows an excellent understanding. Relevant details enrich the central theme.	Shows a good understanding of the topic. Topic is developed with clear ideas and details but may lack focus.	Shows a satisfactory understanding of the topic/assignment. The writer is beginning to define the topic, even though development is still basic or general.	Shows a limited understanding of the topic/assignment. The subject lacks development and includes details that do not contribute to the focus of the subject.	Shows a lack of understanding of the topic/assignment. The paper has no clear sense of purpose or central theme.
Organization (2X)	The organization showcases and enhances the central idea or theme. The order, structure or presentation of information is compelling and moves the reader through the text. Uses paragraphs correctly including an introduction, transitions, and conclusion.	The organizational structure is logical and easy to follow. The order, structure or presentation of information smoothly moves the reader through the text. Uses paragraphs correctly most of the time.	The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion. Includes some connections among ideas and use of paragraphs.	The writing has a direction, but the reader has questions. There is an illogical order that makes it difficult to interpret the text. Does not use paragraphs effectively.	Writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details and events seem strung together in a loose or random fashion; there is no identifiable internal structure. Use of paragraphs is unsuccessful.
Sentence Fluency	The writing has an easy flow, rhythm and cadence. Sentences are well built, with strong and varied structure.	The writing has some variety of sentence lengths that flow, allowing the reader to advance.	The text hums along with a steady beat, but tends to be more mechanical than fluid. Variety of sentence structure is limited.	The sentences vary a bit but sound forced, unnatural or repetitive.	There is no variation of sentences. The paper is difficult to read.
Voice/Style	The writer's voice is impersonal, academic and impartial. The writer crafts the piece with an awareness of and respect for the audience and the writing's purpose.	The writer mostly relates to the audience and the purpose.	The writer has made an attempt to relate expression, purpose and audience.	The writer's expression is not appropriate to purpose or audience..	The writer's expression clearly demonstrates a lack of understanding for this genre of writing and purpose.

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Word Choice	Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting and natural way. The words are powerful and engaging.	Words are appropriate and varied. The writer has "told" us but not "shown" us.	Uses suitable words all of the time and includes some descriptive, interesting words.	The writer attempts to use new words, but incorrectly. Simplistic language.	The writer demonstrates a limited vocabulary or has not searched for words to convey specific meaning.
Conventions (e.g. spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage, paragraphing)	The author demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions and uses them effectively to enhance readability. Errors are so few that just minor touch-ups would get this piece ready to publish.	Few errors are consistently made. One more read-through is needed to edit. Errors do not take away from the meaning of the text.	The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. Conventions are sometimes handled well and enhance readability; at other times, errors are distracting and impair readability.	Errors are distracting and make understanding the text difficult. The writer shows some knowledge of conventions, but very basic. There are patterns of errors.	Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read.
Presentation	The form and presentation of the text enhance the ability for the reader to understand and connect with the message. It is extremely pleasing to the eye while maintaining the structure appropriate for this genre of writing.	Format is consistent and supports the content. It is pleasing to the eye and is appropriate for this genre.	The writer's message is understandable in this format.	The format distracts from the content.	The reader receives a garbled message due to problems relating to the presentation of the text. Exceptionally poor presentation. It is illegible, incomplete and/or extremely difficult to read.

Comments:

Total Points: /2 = /50