

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN  
EDUCATION: ADMISSION WRITING RUBRIC**

**To the Reader:**

Using the following guidelines, please rate the attached writing sample as **Exceptional, Acceptable, or Unacceptable**. You may use this rubric to make notes or highlight issues as you read through the document. Please provide only one final overall rating for the document.

Please return the writing sample and this score sheet to the Office of Doctoral Programs in Education within five days.

Thank you for your assistance in this effort!

**Student Code (assigned by ODPE):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Overall Rating (circle one):**    **Exceptional**                      **Acceptable**                      **Unacceptable**

<b>Assessment Area</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
<b>General Presentation and Organization</b>	The introduction is highly purposeful with a very clear statement of the position of the writer.	The introduction is reasonably purposeful and indicates the position of the writer.	The introduction is vague with no indication of purpose.
	The writing in the body of the paper: a) Is highly engaging, insightful and focused; b) Has a high degree of clarity, depth, coherency and completeness; c) Is orderly and the sequence of ideas is well developed with a clear sense of beginning and ending.	The writing in the body of the paper: a) Is engaging, insightful and focused; b) Has clarity, depth, coherency and completeness; c) Ideas are developed with a sense of beginning and ending.	The writing in the body of the paper: a) Lacks interest or insight; b) Lacks consistency, coherence and completeness; c) Lacks proper flow of ideas and issues/themes are disconnected.
	The conclusion sums up the details of the paper with a highly thoughtful closing statement.	The conclusion sums up the main themes of the paper.	The conclusion does not show the essence of the paper.

<b>Concept Comprehension and Analysis</b>	The discussion is framed within the context of the writing prompt and presents a highly accurate and complete treatment of the relevant issues.	The discussion is related to the writing prompt and presents an accurate and complete understanding of the relevant issues.	The discussion is not related to the writing prompt or the issues of the question are not elaborated.
	Develops highly convincing and insightful ideas; Presents logically compelling assumptions and reasons; Justifies opinions or perspectives with the support of relevant, persuasive and/or illustrative examples; Provides accurate definitions of unfamiliar terms; Relates ones own reflections and observations with the issues in depth.	Develops convincing and insightful ideas; Presents adequate assumptions and reasoning; Justifies opinions or perspectives with the support of relevant examples; Provides definitions of unfamiliar terms; Relates ones own experiences to the issues.	Many of the ideas stated are not that convincing; Assumptions and reasons are not elaborated; Opinions are not supported by relevant examples; Unfamiliar terms are not defined.
	The analysis of the issue is highly logical, clear and thoughtful; The writer draws appropriate, thoughtful and meaningful conclusions from the analysis.	The analysis of issues is logical, clear and thoughtful; The writer draws appropriate, conclusions from the analysis.	There is only a superficial analysis of the issue; The writer draws inappropriate conclusions from the analysis.

<b>Language Structure (Grammar &amp; Conventions)</b>	The paper shows a strong command of language.	The paper shows a reasonable command of language.	The paper shows a poor command of language.
	Sentence structures are highly accurate.	Sentence structures are reasonably accurate.	There are many incorrect sentence structures.
	Capitalization, punctuation and indentation are well followed and all spellings are correct.	Capitalization, punctuation and indentation are reasonably well followed and spelling errors are very few.	There are many errors in capitalization, punctuation, indentation and spelling.