

Concept-Definition Structure of Argument Criteria - *Grading Rubric*

Exemplary / Exceeds

The essay includes a concise thesis statement, appropriate and well-chosen supporting evidence, and transparently leads the reader through the argument:

- Concisely explains how the concept-definition essay can help someone better understand the concept and why understanding the concept is important in the big picture, making insightful connections in the process;
- Begins with a concise, analytical thesis statement summarizing the definition of the concept;
- Includes at least three appropriate and exceptional supporting ideas;
- Uses pertinent and well-chosen evidence to support argument; and
- Employs accurate transition language to effortlessly lead the reader through the argument.

Proficient / Meets

The essay includes a well-defined thesis statement, appropriate supporting evidence, and effectively leads the reader through the argument:

- Clearly explains how the concept-definition essay can help someone better understand the concept and why understanding the concept is important in the big picture;
- Begins with a clear, analytical thesis statement summarizing the definition of the concept;
- Includes at least three appropriate supporting ideas;
- Uses pertinent evidence to support the argument; and
- Employs relevant transition language to effectively lead the reader through the argument.

Areas for Improvement

The essay includes only a partial thesis statement and/or some supporting evidence.

Significant Reteaching

The essay includes no thesis statement, no supporting evidence, and does not lead the reader through the argument.