Rubric

Writing from Knowledge and Experience

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| **Characteristics** | **6** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Content and Ideas | The writing is exceptionally clear and focused. Ideas and content are thoroughly developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate. | The writing is clear and focused. Ideas and content are well developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate. | The writing is generally clear and focused. Ideas and content are developed with relevant details and examples where appropriate, although there may be some unevenness. | The writing is somewhat clear and focused. Ideas and content are developed with limited or partially successful use of examples and details. | The writing is only occasionally clear and focused. Ideas and content are underdeveloped. | The writing is generally unclear and unfocused. Ideas and content are not developed or connected. |
| Organization | The writer’s control over organization and the connections between ideas move the reader smoothly and naturally through the text. | The writer’s control over organization and the connections between ideas effectively move the reader through the text. | The response is generally coherent, and its organization is functional. | There may be evidence of an organizational structure, but it may be artificial or ineffective. | There may be little evidence of organizational structure. | There may be no noticeable organizational structure. |
| Style and Voice | The writer shows a mature command of language including precise word choice that results in a compelling piece of writing. | The writer shows a command of language including precise word choice. | The writer’s command of language, including word choice, supports meaning. | Vocabulary may be basic. | Vocabulary may be limited. |  |
| Conventions | Tight control over language use and mastery of writing conventions contribute to the effect of the response. | The language is well controlled, and occasional lapses in writing conventions are hardly noticeable. | Lapses in writing conventions are not distracting. | Incomplete mastery of over writing conventions and language use may interfere with meaning some of the time. | Limited control over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand. | Lack of control over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand. |

**Not ratable if: a) off topic b) illegible c) written in language other than English d) blank/refused to respond.**