

Writing a Biographical Essay Rubric

	1 - Beginning	2 - Developing	3 - Capable	4 - Exemplary
Content: How well do you know your historical figure? What have you learned about this person? Have you answered the question: How did this person roar during the 1920?	Demonstrates little knowledge or understanding of the person. Does not discuss importance of person. Written work is merely a rewriting of facts.	Demonstrates some gaps in understanding. Includes some factual errors and misconceptions. Attempts to discuss importance.	Demonstrates good understanding of important ideas and events in person's life. Discusses why the person is important.	Demonstrates excellent understanding of person's life and contributions to the Roaring Twenties. Includes information that makes the person "come alive."
Organization Is your essay well-organized? Does your beginning paragraph draw the reader in? Does your final paragraph summarize what is important to know about your person?	There does not seem to be an organizational plan. Ideas seem jumbled and disconnected.	Introduction and conclusion are present, but not complete. An organizational plan is evident, but some ideas are presented out of order. Attempts to use transitions.	Good introduction and conclusion. Information is presented in a logical order. Uses adequate transitions between ideas.	Introduction and conclusion are strong and engaging. Information is presented in a logical and interesting order. Ideas flow well.
Supporting Details Do you use details and examples from the person's life to help the reader really get to know this person?	Does not use relevant examples or explanations to elaborate on the topic.	Uses some examples and explanations to express ideas. May include some examples that are not relevant to the topic.	Develops ideas using some examples, details, and explanations.	Develops ideas fully using appropriate and relevant examples, reasons, details, explanations, and generalizations.
Mechanics/Usage Have you proofread your essay? Did you vary your sentence structure? Did you choose the most appropriate words to communicate your ideas?	Many errors make comprehension difficult or impossible. No attempt to vary sentence structure or make good word choices.	Contains many errors which do not interfere with comprehension. Little attempt to vary sentence structure or word choice.	Several grammatical or spelling errors. Attempts to vary sentence structure. Uses some descriptive language.	Contains few grammatical or spelling errors. Uses varied sentence structure. Uses strong, descriptive language.