

Essay Rubric

Directions: Circle one-point value (1-4) for each trait listed below After reviewing total the points and refer to the scale provided. The final points should be between 0-3. If there are questions in regards to this rubric, please contact Sara Knepper.

Deaf Studies & Mild-Moderate Disabilities Prompt: Describe your experience working with children and/or youth in educational settings that serve young people and why you want to work in your chosen profession. This should be a 500-750 word essay that outlines some of the work you have done with children, including activities you have participated in or directed, and summarizes your overall experiences and motivations for your intended profession (teaching, interpreting, etc.) and the population you wish to work with (the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, elementary-age or younger children, or children with special needs).

Traits	4	3	2	1
Content	Main ideas are connected to the prompt; all aspects of the prompt are clearly addressed. Explicitly connects their experiences to their future profession.	Main ideas are connected to the prompt but the author strays from the prompt or does not fully address the prompt. Struggles to connect past experiences to their future profession.	Main ideas are somewhat clear. Not everything in the prompt is addressed. The author strays significantly from the prompt. Connection of past experiences to their future profession is unclear or not developed.	The applicant did not address the prompt well. Connection of past experiences to their future profession is unclear or not present.
Evidence/Support	Includes substantial, logical, specific, and/or illustrative examples of their experiences and motivations for intended profession.	Includes sufficient, logical, sound, and consistent examples of their experiences and motivations for intended profession.	Includes examples of their experiences and motivations for intended profession that are not sufficient or specific. Some unsupported generalizations.	Includes few or no examples of their experiences and motivations for intended profession; frequent generalizations without support.
Organization	Organization is logical, sequential, and coherent, making insightful connections among ideas; ideas are linked with smooth and effective transitions.	Organization is logical and coherent, makes connections among ideas; has transitions.	Attempts to organize writing, but paragraphs are disconnected with weak or missing transitions; structure is weak. Essay is readable.	Organization is confusing, disjointed, and/or weak. Transitions are missing, inappropriate, or illogical. Essay is difficult to understand.
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	Exhibits skillful, effective, and powerful use of language, exceptional vocabulary range and accuracy of usage, and variety in sentences. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed with good vocabulary range. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they lack variety and have limited vocabulary. The author makes frequent errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.
Reviewer's Comments/Concerns	*Please note any specific concerns you have about the essay content, for example concerning content about children or the profession.			

Scale
 14-16 → 3 points
 11-13 → 2 points
 8-10 → 1 point
 4-7 → 0 points

Total Points (0-3)