

Social Studies Writing Rubric

	Exemplary A+ - A-	Advanced B+ - B-	Proficient C+ - C-	Limited D+ - D-	Deficient F
Thesis Statement (max 20pts.)	Strong thesis; ideas/arguments are clearly focused, demonstrate original thinking and are well- developed. (20-18)	Consistent, developed thesis; ideas/arguments are focused and developed (17-16)	Partially developed thesis; ideas/arguments are less focused (15-14)	Confusing and/or poorly developed thesis; ideas and arguments are vague and unclear (13-12)	No thesis; ideas and arguments show no organization of thought or focus (11-0)
Support and Elaboration (max. 50 pts.)	Detailed and insightful interpretation of materials and relevant outside information to support and develop thesis; sophisticated use and analysis of evidence (50-44)	Accurate interpretation of materials and relevant outside information to support and develop thesis; thoughtful analysis of evidence (43-40)	Limited interpretation of materials; some relevant outside information used to support thesis; limited analysis of evidence (39-35)	Ineffective interpretation of materials; superficial information to support thesis, irrelevant and/or inaccurate analysis of evidence (34-30)	No interpretation of materials; little understanding of the question; support not introduced; inappropriate or no outside information used; no analysis of evidence (29-0)
Organization and Mechanics (max. 15pts.)	Well-organized, exemplary use of mechanics (15-13.5)	Clearly-organized, adequate use of mechanics (13-12)	Acceptable organization, some minor errors with mechanics (11.5-10.5)	Weak organization, may contain major errors in mechanics (10-9)	Disorganized, contains numerous mechanical errors, both major and minor (8.5-0)
Clarity and Fluency (max. 15pts.)	Effective and logical presentation of ideas; writing is fluent with smooth and polished transitions (15-13.5)	Clear presentation of ideas, writing is generally fluent with accurate transitions (13-12)	Appropriate presentation of ideas; fluency and transitions may be lacking (11.5-10.5)	Presentation of ideas is somewhat confusing and difficult to understand; fluency and transitions are lacking (10-9)	Ideas are difficult o understand; fluency and transitions are lacking (8.5-0)