



RooWriter Essay Evaluation

Getting a read on your writing!

Date of Report: Sunday, September 22, 2013 RooWriter Contact: roowriter@umkc.edu

Student ID: Catalog Year:

Essay Status: Personal Diagnostic Graduation requirement satisfied

About Writing: Writing is no different from any other skill: the more you practice, the better you become. And, like any craft or sport, development occurs over sustained periods of practice. In other words, muscle development (or writing development) happens over time, not overnight.

Essay ID: Submitted:

Time elapsed to submission [max. 72 hrs]: 3 hr 0 min

Word Count [min. 750; max. 1,500]: 944

Reading Packet Title: Homelessness in Kansas City: What Can We Do?

Essay Prompt: The studies and reports in this Reading Packet cite factors that can lead to homelessness. Using at least three of the readings, identify three of these factors and evaluate ways to address them here in Kansas City.

Citation Style: MLA

About Evaluators: This report includes feedback from two independent RooWriter Evaluators who may have assessed your essay differently on some scales, and in their separate remarks. In the graph, each bar color represents a different Evaluator.

Overall Impression of your Essay from the Evaluators:

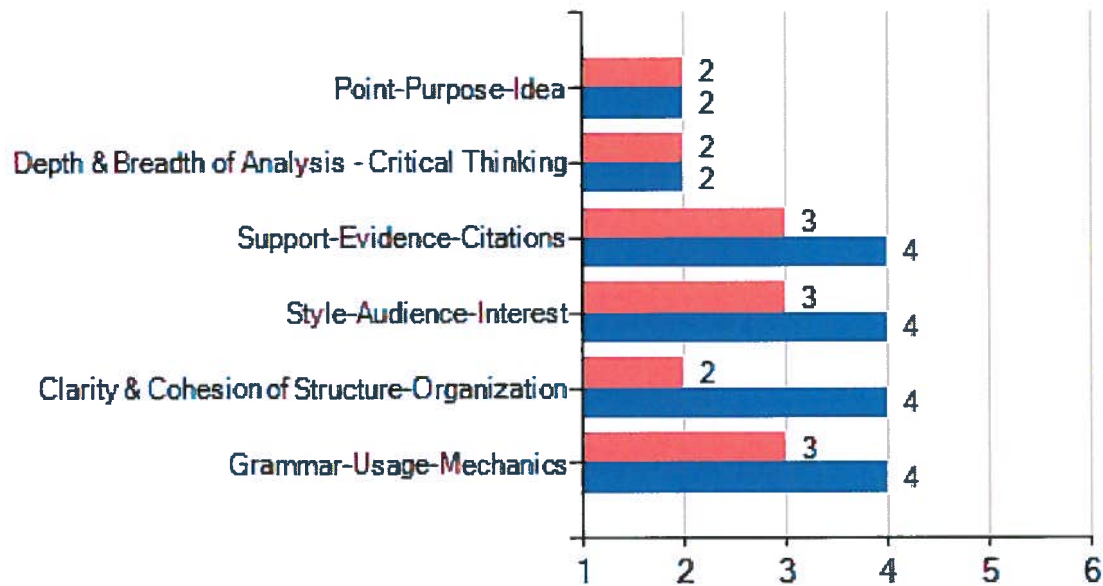
First Evaluator:

You do a good job citing specific and quantitative source material - statistics often help boost arguments made in this type of essay. However, there is an overabundance of statistics in the essay that don't necessarily correlate to an argument or analysis. Additionally, I could not identify a thesis or a logical organization structure. When writing an essay, it is crucial that you understand and address the prompt provided. In this case, I could not identify where you named 3 factors of homelessness and ways to address these particular factors.

Second Evaluator:

You have done a good job summarizing the essays and providing statistics. You have also documented the solutions suggested by the various authors. But I do not hear your voice in this essay meaning the request is for you to provide your suggestions as to how to address homelessness in Kansas City. You do not provide a thesis and the essay you provided, while well written, is more of a report of what others think than your own analysis of those reports and newspaper articles and your suggestions specific to Kansas City's homeless problem. You did not provide a summary.

The Six RooWriter Evaluation Scales



1-Unacceptable 2-Poor 3-Fair 4-Good 5-Very Good 6-Excellent

RooWriter recommendations based on the combined average of the six scales from the two Evaluators:

You are encouraged to attend writing seminars offered by the Writing Studio, to develop in the areas of writing you want to target: Schedule of writing workshops (2). --- Make use of writing guides and writing resources for areas you need to strengthen: Writing Studio writing guides (1). --- Build a relationship with the writing consultants at the Writing Studio. One-with-one writing consultations will be beneficial at all stages of the writing process: Writing Studio: Make an appointment (3). (Numbers in parentheses refer to the numbered links at the end of this report.)

Point-Purpose-Idea

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources
2 - Poor: Your position on the topic is unclear, and your supporting ideas are often list-like rather than well-developed.	Thesis guide (1).

Depth & Breadth of Analysis – Critical Thinking

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources
2 - Poor: Your management of most elements of summary, interpretation, analysis, and synthesis is weak.	TAMU: Critical Thinking skills (6).

Support-Evidence-Citations

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources

3 - Fair: You have incorporated some evidence, but you did not always maintain your focus or explain the evidence well. You cite evidence, but errors in attribution or citation accuracy occasionally cause confusion.	Integrating sources guide (1), Purdue OWL: Quoting, paraphrasing, & summarizing (4). Attend the workshop: "Writing with Experts: Using and Integrating Sources" (2).
4 - Good: You have incorporated evidence with adequate focus and explanation. You have some minor errors in citation mechanics throughout.	Integrating sources guide (1), Purdue OWL: Quoting, paraphrasing, & summarizing (4).

Style-Audience-Interest

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources
3 - Fair: Your essay sometimes lacks interest for the reader. You have displayed a developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes use weak or inappropriate word choice, with a lack of variety or clarity in sentence structure. You have demonstrated some awareness of audience, with a tone and formality/informality that may reflect your purpose, but only in isolated words or sentences.	Purdue OWL: Sentence Variety (8), UMUC: Style through Vocabulary and Diction (9), UNC-CH: Audience (10)
4 - Good: Your essay contains some passages of narrative that engage the reader. You have exhibited adequate, although inconsistent, facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary and some variety in sentence structure. You have demonstrated adequate awareness of audience, with a generally appropriate but not sustained use of tone and formality/informality.	Purdue OWL: Sentence Variety (8), UMUC: Style through Vocabulary and Diction (9), UNC-CH: Audience (10)

Clarity & Cohesion of Structure - Organization

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources
2 - Poor: Your essay is often unfocused and/or disorganized, with serious flaws in coherence or progression. More than one part of the introduction, body, or conclusion contains disjointed narrative, making it difficult to follow the essay. Your introduction or conclusion may be missing.	Academic Introductions & Conclusions guide (1), Outlining guide (1). Attend the workshop: "Organization in writing" (2).
4 - Good: You have demonstrated an adequately focused and well-organized essay, presenting your ideas with adequate coherence, and reasonable clarity and progression of thought. The introduction, body and conclusion are evident in the essay's structure, and contribute to unity, but your resolution may be obvious.	Academic Introductions & Conclusions guide (1), Outlining guide (1).

Grammar-Usage-Mechanics

RooWriter Feedback	Suggested Resources
3 - Fair: Your essay contains occasional major or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics of written academic English that interfere with meaning.	Purdue OWL: Grammar (5), Interactive grammar sites (7). Attend the workshop: "How to Write Like a Pro: Revising, Editing, & Proofreading; Basic Grammar Review" (2).
4 - Good: You have generally demonstrated facility with the conventions of written academic English. Minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics may be apparent throughout your essay, but do not interfere with meaning.	Purdue OWL: Grammar (5), Interactive grammar sites (7).

Additional Constructive Feedback from the Evaluators:

First Evaluator:

The larger issue here is thesis and organization. When beginning with a prompt such as this, you should begin by identifying what specific evidence you can use to answer the question asked. In this case, you should have limited your focus to three specific causes of homelessness, cite these causes (using both quotes and paraphrasing - rather than only paraphrasing as you have done), analyze the issues brought up in the readings, and discuss ways these issues could be addressed. This same formula could be applied to any number of essays - find specific and limited evidence to answer the question, analyze the evidence, make some conclusion about the evidence. The reason for using a limited amount of evidence is so you draw your reader's attention to a specific set of issues without overwhelming them - your thesis needs to be manageable within the space allowed. There are other issues that could be addressed once you have considered this larger issue including citation style, sentence structure, and grammar. However, these considerations may be addressed after carefully considering the bigger picture - thesis and organization.

Second Evaluator:

You write well and you used your sources effectively. However, the readings contained a good overview of the opposing views about how to address homelessness and I did not feel that you brought this concepts into your essay. Sometimes your punctuation was incorrect resulting in sentence fragments that made the reading difficult..Trying reading your essay aloud when finished in order to catch these problems. Most importantly, every essay should have a thesis which defines the issue you intend to discuss or analyze and a summary of your thoughts at the end.

Resource Links:

- 1 Writing Studio writing guides: <http://www.umkc.edu/writingstudio/writing-resources/Writing-guides.cfm>
- 2 Writing Studio Workshops: <http://www.umkc.edu/writingstudio/student-services/workshops.cfm>
- 3 Writing Studio: Make an Appointment: [http://www.umkc.edu/writingstudio/student-services/make-appointment.cfm#Onsite Session](http://www.umkc.edu/writingstudio/student-services/make-appointment.cfm#Onsite_Session)
- 4 Purdue OWL: Quoting, Paraphrasing, & Summarizing: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/>
- 5 Purdue OWL: Grammar: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>
- 6 TAMU: Critical Thinking skills: <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/for-faculty/teaching-writing/teaching-basic-skills/critical-thinking/>
- 7 Interactive Grammar site: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/exercisecentral/>
- 8 Purdue OWL: Sentence Variety: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/573/01/>
- 9 UMUC: Style through Vocabulary & Diction: <http://www.umuc.edu/writingcenter/onlineguide/chapter3-22.cfm>
- 10 UNC-CH: Audience: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/audience/>