

**Westhill High School Writing Rubric**  
**Ms. Walden**

Writing Feature	4 (4+/4-)	3 (3+/3-)	2 (2+/2-)	1
<b>Response to Prompt</b>	Addresses the prompt clearly and effectively;  Thesis presents a clear and apt argument	Addresses the prompt adequately;  Thesis presents an adequate argument.	Addresses the prompt in general, but may leave out some essential aspects;  Thesis is vague.	Does not address the prompt;  Thesis is missing.
<b>Complexity</b>	Effectively develops an argument on the issue;  Demonstrates strong, sustained critical thinking supported by clear, effective evidence.	Adequately develops an argument on the issue;  Demonstrates some critical thinking supported by suitable evidence.	Develops some argument on the issue;  Demonstrates simplistic thinking supported by limited evidence.	Argument does not address the prompt and lacks accurate evidence.
<b>Organization</b>	Clear organization and effective structure.	Adequate organization and structure.	Weak organization and structure.	Unfocused organization; lacks structure.
<b>Diction</b>	Displays skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary.  Uses appropriate voice and powerful words.	Displays adequate but inconsistent use of language and vocabulary.  Developing use of appropriate voice and powerful words.	Displays limited vocabulary and incorrect or poor word choice.  Consistent use of incorrect voice and/or weak words.	
<b>Syntax (Sentence Fluency)</b>	Demonstrates a varied, purposeful, and sophisticated sentence structure.	Demonstrates some variety and skill in sentence structure, but may contain some errors.	Demonstrates frequent problems in sentence structure that interfere with meaning; lacks variety and complexity.	
<b>Conventions</b>	Is free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Contains some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that do not significantly interfere with meaning.	Contains errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that interfere with meaning.	
<b>Voice</b>	Demonstrates an engaging, confident, and unique writing style appropriate to the audience and the task.	Developing a clear and unique writing style that attempts to address the audience and the task.	Overly formulaic writing style and/or inappropriate for the audience and/or the task.	