

TABLE 24.3

Sample Essay Rubric. Rubrics such as these can improve the reliability of essay tests.

DIMENSION	4	3	2	1	SCORE
Position Statement	There is a clear, convincing statement of the writer's position on the topic.	There is a clear statement of the writer's position on the topic.	There is a position statement, but the position is not clear.	There is no position statement.	
Introduction	There is an attention-grabbing introductory paragraph that clearly states the position.	The attention-grabbing introductory paragraph is weak.	The introductory paragraph is interesting but the topic is not clear.	The introductory paragraph is not interesting and is not relevant to the topic.	
Support for Position	Provides 3 or more pieces of relevant evidence, and provides at least 1 counter-argument.	Provides 3 or more pieces of relevant evidence, but no counter-arguments are given.	Provides 2 pieces of evidence that adequately support the position.	Provides 1 or fewer pieces of evidence.	
Organization	Ideas are clearly connected in a logical order using a variety of thoughtful transitions.	Ideas are orderly and connected, but there is little variety in transitions.	Ideas are orderly but some are not well connected and there are few transitions.	Ideas are not presented in a logical order and transitions are unclear or nonexistent.	
Conclusion	The closing paragraph effectively restates the position.	There is a recognizable conclusion that attempts to restate the position.	There is a closing paragraph with a vague restatement of the position.	There is no conclusion; the paper just ends.	
Grammar and Spelling	The essay contains no major errors.	The essay contains a few errors.	The essay contains many serious errors.	The essay contains errors throughout.	