

What does
CRITERION
mean?

**What if you were paid to review
restaurants?**

**What criteria would you use to
judge the restaurant?**

CRITERION – How the STAAR essay is scored.

ORGANIZATION (FOCUS)

- Be **on topic**
- Have a clear **thesis statement**
- Be **easy to follow**



DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS (SUPPORT)

- Includes **well-developed examples** that support the **thesis statement**



LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (CLARITY)

- Essay is **easy to understand**.
- Uses **complete sentences**



SCORE POINT 1 – VERY LIMITED

ORGANIZATION (FOCUS)

- Off topic
- Missing a clear thesis statement
- Hard to follow

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS (SUPPORT)

- Reasons and evidence are vague, undeveloped or off topic

LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (CLARITY)

- Essay is hard to understand because there are a ton of errors



So sad

SCORE POINT 2 – BASIC

ORGANIZATION (FOCUS)

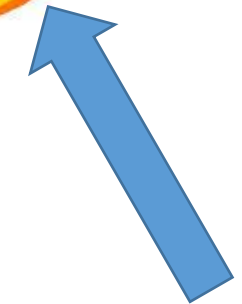
- Generally on topic but...
- Thesis statement is weak or unclear
- Sometimes hard to follow

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS (SUPPORT)

- Reasons and evidence are too briefly or partially presented

LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (CLARITY)

- Essay is sometimes hard to understand because there are many errors



Still sad



YOU ARE SO
BASIC

CUSTOM
APPAREL
CO.

SCORE POINT 3 – SATISFACTORY

ORGANIZATION (FOCUS)

- On topic
- Clear thesis
- Easy to follow

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS (SUPPORT)

- Specific, appropriate, and convincing reasons and evidence

LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (CLARITY)

- Easy to understand even though there are a few errors
- Uses complete sentences



Yoo-hoo!

SCORE POINT 4 - Accomplished

ORGANIZATION (FOCUS)

- Same as 3 but stronger

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS (SUPPORT)

- Same as 3 but more thoughtful

LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (CLARITY)

- Same as 3 but more impressive



**Celebration
worthy**

How your Total Score is Calculated

- Two different people score your essay.
- They do not have to agree on the score.
- The scores are then added together and multiplied by 2.

1 st Score	2 nd Score	Sum of 2 Scores	Total Score	What this means	Comparable Grade
0	0	0	0	Nonscorable performance	F 0
1	1	2	4	Very limited performance	F 25
1	2	3	6	Between very limited and basic performance	F
2	2	4	8	Basic performance	F 50
2	3	5	10	Between basic and satisfactory performance	D
3	3	6	12	Satisfactory performance	C 75
3	4	7	14	Between satisfactory and accomplished performance	B
4	4	8	16	Accomplished performance	A 100