

Middle School Essay Contest Rubric: The Importance of Wastewater Management

Criteria	4 - Excellent	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Beginning
Understanding of Topic	Explains the wastewater treatment process or flushing guidelines with clear, accurate details. Demonstrates an understanding of water conservation.	Explains the wastewater treatment process or flushing guidelines with mostly accurate details. Shows good understanding of water conservation.	Provides a basic explanation but lacks some accuracy or detail. Understanding of water importance is limited or unclear.	Explanation is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing. Little to no understanding of water treatment or conservation.
Response to Prompt	Addresses all parts of the prompt with clear, relevant information and thoughtful insights.	Addresses most parts of the prompt with relevant information. Some insights are present.	Addresses the prompt partially; some information may be off-topic or incomplete.	Does not adequately address the prompt or is off-topic.
Use of Resources & Facts	Incorporates facts and information from provided resources to support ideas. Shows connection to local water context.	Uses some facts from resources to support ideas with some connection to local water context.	Limited use of facts from resources; connection to local context is weak or unclear.	Little or no use of facts from resources; no connection to local water context.
Creativity & Voice	Demonstrates originality and creativity, especially if responding to prompt 2; voice is engaging and appropriate for grade level.	Shows some creativity and clear voice; writing is appropriate for grade level.	Limited creativity or voice; writing is somewhat flat or inconsistent.	Lacks creativity and voice; writing does not engage or is inappropriate for grade level.
Organization & Clarity	Essay is well-organized. Ideas flow logically and are easy to follow.	Essay is generally organized with clear ideas but may have minor lapses in flow or clarity.	Organization is inconsistent; ideas sometimes unclear or hard to follow.	Essay lacks clear organization; ideas are confusing or disjointed.
Mechanics (Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation)	Writing is free of errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Few minor errors that do not interfere with understanding.	Some errors that occasionally interfere with understanding.	Frequent errors that interfere with understanding.

