Written Composition Criteria

	UNDEVELOPED	DEVELOPING	SATISFACTORY	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Snapshot	*The writing is often hard to understand. The writer may need frequent help. Often off topic.*	*The writing offers some ideas that are related to the topic, but it is flawed by frequent errors. Not always on topic.*	*The writing presents ideas that are related to the topic; contains some detail. Mostly on topic.*	*The writing is easy to follow; ideas are relevant and logical. Stays on topic*	*The writing is focused, easy to read, and shows insight.*
Content and Meaning *Most Important*	*makes a statement with no evidence to support it *very brief no main idea *few details *retells story *writing is not on topic with the task	*loosely connected ideas, little analysis *examples or explanations are limited may be repetitive or illogical *has statements that back an opinion but missing a clear focus *summarizes instead of analyzing *Very brief / off task	*some relevant ideas; presents some analysis and reaction *Makes connections without explanation *examples and explanations exist but are too brief to be clear *developing sense of purpose *focus can wander *attempts to connect to your or real life	*offers relevant ideas, with some analysis *gives logical explanations *examples develop and clarify the main ideas *connects to big ideas and deeper meaning *explains connection fully *each paragraph has a clear focus. * clearly explains how lessons apply to your or real life	*offers a strong point of view, reaction, or opinion with some analysis * ideas are significant to the "Big Idea" *shows insight *develops and elaborates ideas clearly and logically through details, examples and explanations *insightful, deep connection to lesson and your or real life
Form	*the introduction does not tell the reader what the writing is about *tends to be all middle ideas *main idea hard to follow *lots of unconnected ideas	*basic intro *ideas have a sense of logical sequence but wander and lose focus *a sense of beginning, middle and end but not wholeness *no or little ending/conclusion	*introduces topic at the start and mostly stays on topic *fairly logical sequence, has some gaps. *has recognizable beginning, middle, and end *ending is abrupt	*opening has clear purpose, effective *logical sentence order, ideas flow naturally from each one *strong paragraphing *good beginning, middle, and end	*engaging opening *follows natural sequence *related ideas grouped together *strong ending