

TAKS Writing Rubric – Abridged Version

	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Focus & Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not focused ▪ Shifts abruptly from idea to idea ▪ Difficult for the reader to understand ▪ Little, or no, sense of completeness ▪ Introduction and conclusion, if present, may lack purpose ▪ Extraneous sentences/ideas ▪ Weakly connected to the prompt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Somewhat focused ▪ Shifts quickly from idea to idea ▪ Easy to understand how the ideas are related ▪ Some sense of completeness ▪ Introduction and conclusion, but may be superficial ▪ Some extraneous sentences/ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focused ▪ Few shifts from idea to idea ▪ Clear relationship between ideas. ▪ Sense of completeness ▪ Introduction and conclusion add some depth ▪ Little extraneous sentences/ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustained focus ▪ Appreciation of ideas ▪ Sense of completeness ▪ Introduction and conclusion add depth and meaning ▪ No extraneous text
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progression weak/illogical ▪ Organizational strategy absent/weak ▪ Absent/inappropriate transitions ▪ Random/haphazard ideas ▪ Wordiness ▪ Repetition ▪ Progression stalled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progression not always smooth/logical ▪ Transitions present but not meaningful ▪ Organizational strategy ineffective ▪ Needs clear links ▪ Some Wordiness ▪ Some Repetition ▪ Progression weakened not completely stalled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progression smooth and controlled ▪ Transitions meaningful/logical ▪ Organizational strategy effective ▪ Wordiness/Repetition minor ▪ Progression of ideas not stalled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progression smooth and controlled ▪ Meaningful transitions ▪ Clear links ▪ Logical movement ▪ Organizational strategy enhances ideas
Development of Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One/more ideas – NO development ▪ Attempts to develop –general or vague ▪ Plot summary ▪ Omits information ▪ Significant gaps in ideas ▪ Unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to develop/listing ▪ Development is superficial ▪ Ideas presented without depth ▪ Little evidence – general/contrived ▪ Minor gaps ▪ Ideas are still clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to develop ideas ▪ Uneven development but depth is evident ▪ Reader can understand and appreciate ideas ▪ Thoughtful development but no real risk is evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thorough and specific development of EACH idea ▪ Thoughtful and insightful ideas ▪ Reader truly understands and appreciates ideas ▪ Unusual perspective and uniqueness ▪ Willingness to take a compositional risk ▪ Interesting connections
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not engage reader ▪ No connection ▪ Little/no voice – flat tone ▪ Not authentic or original ▪ Not unique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to engage reader but not sustained ▪ May sound authentic or original ▪ Difficulty in expressing or displaying individuality or unique perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engages and connects with the reader ▪ Sounds authentic and original ▪ Generally expresses individuality or unique perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engages reader and sustains a strong connection ▪ Authentic and original ▪ Expresses strong individuality or unique perspective
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little or no evidence of control ▪ Severe/frequent errors ▪ Lack of fluency ▪ Omits words/phrases ▪ Uses awkward sentence phrases ▪ Weaknesses affect fluency and effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited control of conventions ▪ Fluency is weakened but ideas are still clear to the reader ▪ Uses simple or inaccurate words or phrases ▪ Awkward sentences ▪ Limited effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates a good command of conventions ▪ Minor errors – few disruptions in thought ▪ Words/phrases/sentences are generally appropriate ▪ Generally effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consistent strength of command of conventions ▪ Minor errors – no disruptions in thought ▪ Communicate complex ideas through sophisticated forms of expression ▪ Words/phrases/sentence structure enhances effectiveness