

Essay Rubric: Character Traits of an Effective Leader

Essay Prompt:

There are many leaders in the world, but what makes a leader stand out among the rest?

In a 5 paragraph essay, describe three character traits that a leader must possess to be effective in their role. Use quality print and internet sources such as news articles and journal articles to support your reasoning.

Essay Rubric:

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards	Score
Attention Grabber	The introductory paragraph has a strong hook or attention grabber that is appropriate for the audience. This could be a strong statement, a relevant quotation, statistic, or question addressed to the reader.	The introductory paragraph has a hook or attention grabber, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience.	The author has an interesting introductory paragraph but the connection to the topic is not clear.	The introductory paragraph is not interesting AND is not relevant to the topic.	____/4 Points
Focus or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed.	____/4 Points
Support for Position 2 Concrete Details per paragraph	Includes 6 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 4 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 2 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences).	____/12 Points

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<p>Concrete Details and Commentary</p>	<p>All of the concrete details and commentary are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.</p>	<p>Most of the concrete details and commentary are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.</p>	<p>At least one of the concrete details and commentary is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.</p>	<p>Concrete details and commentary are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">____/12 Points</p>
<p>Transitions</p>	<p>A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected</p>	<p>Transitions show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety</p>	<p>Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy.</p>	<p>The transitions between ideas are unclear OR nonexistent.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">____/4 Points</p>
<p>Closing paragraph</p>	<p>The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.</p>	<p>The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.</p>	<p>The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.</p>	<p>There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">____/4 Points</p>
<p>Sources</p> <p>Make sure to cite all ideas that are not your own.</p>	<p>All sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.</p>	<p>All sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and most are cited correctly.</p>	<p>Most sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.</p>	<p>Many sources are suspect (not credible) AND/OR are not cited correctly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">____/4 Points</p>
<p>Grammar & Spelling</p>	<p>Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.</p>	<p>Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.</p>	<p>Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.</p>	<p>Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">____/4 Points</p>

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Capitalization & Punctuation	Author makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the essay is exceptionally easy to read.	Author makes 1-2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the essay is still easy to read.	Author makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Author makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	____/4 Points
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Proper MLA Format	____/4 Points
Works cited page	____/4 Points
Graphic Organizer Completed	____/10 Points
First Draft Completed	____/15 Points
Final Draft Completed	____/15 Points

Teacher's Comments for Student:

Total Score: _____/100 Points