

## Appendix B: Youth Empowerment Letter Rubric

Grading Criteria			
Adequate	Very Good	Excellent	Score
<b>Evidence of honest, critical self-reflection and self-awareness (50 points)</b>			
<p>(35–44 points)</p> <p>The letter reflected honesty and some commentary on a topic related to youth empowerment and social justice. The letter was adequate regarding creativity, synthesis of ideas, in-depth reflections, and evidence of original thought on the subject. The letter’s main arguments were vague and required more elaboration to demonstrate critical thinking for graduate-level writing.</p>	<p>(45–47 points)</p> <p>The letter reflected honesty and some commentary on a topic related to youth empowerment and social justice. The letter was very good regarding creativity, synthesis of ideas, in-depth reflections, and evidence of original thought on the subject. The letter’s main arguments were somewhat developed and demonstrated some critical thinking for graduate-level writing.</p>	<p>(48–50 points)</p> <p>The letter reflected an honest analysis and commentary on a topic related to youth empowerment and social justice. The letter was exemplary regarding creativity, synthesis of ideas, in-depth reflections, and evidence of original thought on the subject. The letter’s main arguments were well-developed and demonstrated a high degree of critical thinking for graduate-level writing.</p>	
<b>Writing style and organization/clarity/grammar (30 points)</b>			
<p>(20–24 points)</p> <p>The letter met most assignment requirements but did not consistently demonstrate attention to detail. The essay’s organization and flow could have been improved with further editing. Although the essay was adequate, it had several grammatical errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence fragments, comma splices, or run-ons.</p>	<p>(25–27 points)</p> <p>The letter met all assignment requirements but did not consistently demonstrate attention to detail. The essay is well-organized. As a very good essay, it had minimal distracting spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and was mostly free of sentence fragments, comma splices, and run-ons.</p>	<p>(28–30 points)</p> <p>The letter met all assignment requirements and demonstrated attention to detail. The essay is neat and well-organized. As an exemplary essay, it was free of distracting spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and absent of sentence fragments, comma splices, and run-ons.</p>	
<b>Oral presentation style (20 points)</b>			
<p>(10–14 points)</p> <p>The student showed adequate presentation skills, with basic attention to vocal dynamics, body language, eye contact, etc. The oral presentation somewhat mentioned the student’s positionality or standpoint.</p>	<p>(15–17 points)</p> <p>The student showed adequate presentation skills, with basic attention to vocal dynamics, body language, eye contact, etc. The oral presentation also provided a very good introduction to the letter’s focus and mentioned the student’s positionality or standpoint.</p>	<p>(18–20 points)</p> <p>The student showed exemplary presentation skills, with attention to vocal dynamics, body language, eye contact, etc. The oral presentation also provided an excellent introduction to the letter’s focus and discussed the student’s positionality and standpoint.</p>	
<b>Extra Credit:</b> The student supplemented the reading with creative expression (photo, music, video, exhibits, etc.)			