

**Rubric, Writing about Place**

Criteria/Traits	Four	Three	Two	One
<p><b>Content &amp; ideas:</b> How well does the writer evoke a place? How clear and meaningful are the ideas? Is there a point?</p>	<p>In-depth appreciation of place. * Details go beyond obvious. * Makes connections. * Shares insights. * Original ideas complement descriptions. * Answers reader's questions.</p>	<p>Place/main idea(s) well described. * Tried new ways of thinking about place. * Nice details w/ some support. * Shows insight. * Clear/focused; answers many of a reader's questions.</p>	<p>Place and main ideas are reasonably clear, but more details are needed to help reader picture the place.</p>	<p>Place and main ideas are not well described. * Limited information. * Vague details. * Random thoughts.</p>
<p><b>Voice:</b> How well does the writer convey a personal connection to the place/bring it to life? Does s/he establish a distinct persona or voice?</p>	<p>Compelling/engaging. * Goes out on a limb. * Displays ownership. * Powerful purpose. * Takes risks successfully. * Knowledge of place evident.</p>	<p>Conveys interest/enthusiasm for and some knowledge of the place. * Sometimes engages, intrigues, or takes risks. * Clear purpose. * Interesting, informative.</p>	<p>Conveys some interest in the place. * Sometimes engages the reader. * Purpose is sometimes clear, but inconsistent.</p>	<p>Conveys little or no interest in the place. * Unaware of reader. * No purpose. * Mechanical, flat, or inappropriate</p>
<p><b>Organization, flow, fluency:</b> Are structure &amp; progression of ideas logical? Is it easy to read and follow the writer's thoughts? Do words and phrases move?</p>	<p>Creative &amp; complementary intro &amp; conclusion. * Artful pace &amp; sequencing for stylistic effect. * Structure really showcases place and ideas. * Exquisite sentences that enhance meaning.</p>	<p>Effective intro &amp; conclusion. * Easy/natural rhythm. * Strong &amp; varied structure: well-crafted sentences of varied lengths &amp; styles, some building on each other. * Details logical, but could be more interesting.</p>	<p>Routine lead and/or conclusion. * Sequencing/pace sporadic or awkward. * Some details not presented clearly or logically. * Competent simple sentences; tries a few compound/complex sentences. * Sentences sometimes/often connect.</p>	<p>Intro and conclusion missing or unconvincing. * Repetitive. * Sequence/pacing missing or random. * Hard to follow: choppy, rambling, incomplete.</p>
<p><b>Word choice:</b> Are word &amp; graphic choices appropriate given topic and author? How strong is the vocabulary used?</p>	<p>Powerful, engaging, "just- right" words/graphics. * Artful use of figurative language. * Words/ phrases/graphics create lingering pictures of the place.</p>	<p>Effective, creative, and/or precise use of words/phrases/graphics most of the time.* Some figurative language. * Writing creates some pictures for reader.</p>	<p>Words generally clear and convey meaning, but lack variety and are not consistently active or precise. * Experiments a bit with vocabulary.</p>	<p>Limited vocabulary. * Simple words incorrectly used. * No figurative language or graphic. * Words do not convey meaning. * Jargon or clichés distract.</p>
<p><b>Grammar, mechanics, spelling:</b> Is essay free of errors unless used for effect? Is everything neat and well-presented?</p>	<p>Sentences well-constructed &amp; varied. * No errors. * Unusual punctuation, capitalization, spelling, usage, grammar, and/or paragraphing contribute to clarity and style.</p>	<p>Few/no spelling errors. * Most punctuation and capitalization accurate and consistent. * Usage and grammar correct/controlled. * Paragraphs mostly sound, some creative.</p>	<p>Spelling, punctuation, usage, capitalization, and grammar mostly correct, but some errors interfere with understanding. * Paragraphing pretty consistent.</p>	<p>Errors impede reading or understanding. * Incorrect punctuation or capitalization * No or illogical paragraphing. * Awkward or repetitive.</p>