## Baker University Writing Rubric for Expository Papers

### Introduction
- The introduction attracts the reader's attention and establishes the importance of the issue. **5**
- The introduction is clear and somewhat captivating, but some detail or clarification regarding the importance of the issue may be lacking. **3**
- Very little indication is present of why the issue is important or relevant, and the introduction is largely not compelling. The author has not targeted the paper to the appropriate audience. **1**

### Thesis
- The thesis statement is clear and complete. **5**
- The thesis statement is complete but lacks stylistic sophistication. **3**
- The thesis statement is incomplete or unclear. **1**

### Language Usage, Grammar, and Mechanics
- The paper uses correct spelling and punctuation. Sentences are clear and easy to understand. The paper exhibits effective word choice and syntax **5**
- The paper contains occasional but limited errors in syntax, grammar, and punctuation. **3**
- The paper contains frequent errors in syntax, grammar, and punctuation. The meaning of some sentences is hard to discern. **1**

### Support for position (thesis)/Use of evidence
- Reasons, concrete examples, or evidence are used sufficiently and effectively to support the main points of the paper. The paper provides the source and significance of each piece of evidence. The ideas are non-trivial and show evidence of author's own thinking. **5**
- Reasons, concrete examples, or evidence are used to support the main points of the paper, but the quality of some of the support is questionable. There is little evidence of creative or original thinking. **3**
- Insufficient reasons, evidence, or examples are present to support the main points of the paper, or the evidence and examples are not applicable to the points being made. **1**

### Objections/contrasting views
- Objections or contrasting viewpoints are substantive, and are fairly presented and well supported. Obvious objections have not been overlooked. The rebuttals are complete and compelling. **5**
- Objections or contrasting viewpoints are generally substantive and fairly presented, although more support for those objections may be needed. Some important objections have been overlooked. The rebuttals are clear. **3**
- Treatment of objections or contrasting viewpoints is minimal and insufficient. The objections are often irrelevant and unsupported. The rebuttals are incomplete or not included. **1**

### Organization and Coherence
- The essay as a whole has a logical and compelling order that moves the reader through the text. Paragraphs are well developed and relate to the thesis in a coherent way. Sentences are clear and complete. Transitions between paragraphs are present and effective. **5**
- The overall organization of the essay is lacking in coherence at times. There is acceptable paragraph construction, but some paragraphs may be lacking in development or unity. Some unnecessary sentences or ideas may be present which detract from the thesis. Transitions are present between most paragraphs. **3**
- The flow of the text is difficult to follow or significantly deviates from the thesis. There is a lack of acceptable paragraph construction. Many of the sentences are overly simplistic, repetitive, or stray from the main idea of the paragraph. There are few transitions between paragraphs. **1**

### Comments