Lesson 34: You Will Be Able to Use a Rubric to Score an Essay

Purpose of Lesson 34: You will be able to use a rubric to score an essay.
Skills: Creative thinking, reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing.

Words to Learn:

**peer evaluation** - when fellow classmates look at your work and give it a grade: Peer evaluation helps the writer and the person who is looking at the work.

**self-evaluation** - when you grade your own work: Using a rubric is a handy tool for self-evaluation of an essay.

1. We are ready to do the peer evaluation on our essays, Ms. Shine. I am anxious to see how the rubric works.

2. You will exchange papers with another classmate, and use the rubric to evaluate the quality of each other's essay. Make sure you read the rubric and the essay.

3. I like scoring someone else's work. I think it will help me when I have to do my own self-evaluation with the rubric. There won't be anyone but me looking at what I wrote.
Lee has written his draft. Score his work using Ms. Shine’s essay scoring rubric.

**Essay Scoring Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose/Task/Prompt</th>
<th>1 (Writing SMART In Progress)</th>
<th>2 (Writing SMART)</th>
<th>3 (Writing SMARTER)</th>
<th>4 (Writing SMARTEST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I do not understand the task.</td>
<td>I partly understand the task.</td>
<td>I understand the task.</td>
<td>I clearly understand the task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My ideas are not clear or too hard to follow.</td>
<td>My ideas are not clear and hard to follow at times.</td>
<td>My ideas can be understood.</td>
<td>My ideas are clear and easy to follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>My ideas are not in order or don’t make sense.</td>
<td>My ideas are in some order or make some sense.</td>
<td>My ideas are in order or make sense.</td>
<td>My ideas are in excellent order and make good sense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and Details</td>
<td>My ideas do not connect to the task. I don’t give enough facts or examples to explain the task.</td>
<td>My ideas connect to the task, but my facts do not explain the task.</td>
<td>My ideas connect to the task and my facts and examples partly explain the task.</td>
<td>My ideas clearly connect to the task and my many facts and examples explain the task very well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentences and Grammar</td>
<td>I have little or no control of sentence structure and/or grammar.</td>
<td>I have some control of sentence structure and/or grammar.</td>
<td>I have control of sentence structure and/or grammar.</td>
<td>I have good control of sentence structure and grammar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Choice</td>
<td>My words are weak, not accurate or often repeated.</td>
<td>My words have little variety, or not accurate at times.</td>
<td>My words are accurate, and show some variety.</td>
<td>My words are accurate, exact and show variety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Give 1-4 points for each box. Add up points to get total score.
Example from Evaluate Using Essay Scoring Rubric – Quiz 1: Use Ms. Shine’s essay scoring rubric to evaluate the paragraph that Lee wrote. Look at each of the five parts of the rubric. Then decide which description matches the writing sample.

Prompt:
What steps can the schools take to ensure a proper diet that promotes healthy eating habits for their students who are served breakfast and lunch?

Lee’s Draft

Introduction: Paragraph 1

The schools should promote healthy eating habits for all students. They can take several steps to ensure a proper diet. The menus must offer balanced meals and a variety of choice. Foods that contain high levels of fats, sugar, salt, and additives, should be eliminated. Junk food should not be available to the students. The foods should also be appealing in appearance and taste. The responsibility of the schools is to educate the community, especially when it comes to healthy eating.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
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Total Score 12
Explanation: This paragraph contains too much information. Each of the sentences that follow the thesis should be used as topic sentences in the paragraphs that follow. Remember the introduction paragraph sets the scene for the remainder of the essay.

Example from Revise Using Essay Scoring Rubric – Quiz 1: Lee has revised his draft. Use the essay scoring rubric to guide you toward the changes made to his first draft.

- Read his revised paragraph.
- Read his original draft.
- Find two changes needed in the draft and type them.
- Decide which part of the essay scoring rubric identified the error.
- Choose the letter(s) that explain(s) the error above what you underlined.

Example:
Paragraph 1: Introduction – Revised
The schools should promote healthy eating habits for all students by taking several steps to ensure a proper diet. In many communities, children eat breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack at school, five days a week. It is very important that children develop proper nutrition from the beginning, and the schools can help in this effort.

Paragraph 1: Introduction – Original
The schools should promote healthy eating habits for all students.  

P  O

They can take several steps to ensure a proper diet. The menus must offer balanced
meals and a variety of choice. Foods that contain high levels of fats, sugar, salt, and additives, should be eliminated. Junk food should not be available to the students. The foods should also be appealing in appearance and taste. The responsibility of the schools is to educate the community, especially when it comes to healthy eating.