

Rubric: Writing a Letter

Categories	Criteria				
	3 points <i>Exceptional</i>	2 points <i>Proficient</i>	1 point <i>Approaching Proficiency</i>	0 points <i>Not Proficient</i>	Points Earned
Content: Perspective	Clearly establishes presence as a witness	Adequately establishes presence as a witness	Partially establishes presence as a witness	Does not establish presence as a witness	
Content: Author's Purpose	Demonstrates accurate and thorough understanding of the author's purpose	Demonstrates adequate understanding of the author's purpose	Demonstrates partial understanding of the author's purpose	Does not demonstrate understanding of the author's purpose	
Content: Analysis & Evaluation	Includes an effective analysis and evaluation of the overall argument and claims; discusses two or more claims and how well they support the overall argument; thoroughly explains validity and strength of reasoning/evidence	Includes an adequate analysis and evaluation of the overall argument and claims; discusses two claims and how well they support the overall argument; adequately explains validity and strength of reasoning/evidence	Includes a partial analysis and/or evaluation of the overall argument and claims; discusses one claim and explains how well it supports the overall argument; partially explains validity and/or strength of reasoning/evidence	Does not include an accurate analysis and/or evaluation of the overall argument and claims; does not discuss claims or explain how well they support the overall argument; does not explain validity and/or strength of reasoning/evidence	
Content: Writer's Opinion	Provides clear, logical evaluation of speech's effectiveness	Provides a logical evaluation of speech's effectiveness	Provides a partial or unclear evaluation of speech's effectiveness	Does not provide an evaluation of speech's effectiveness	
Format	Includes a heading, salutation, body paragraphs, closing, and signature	Includes a heading, salutation, body paragraphs, closing, and signature, with minor errors	Does not include one of the following: heading, salutation, body paragraphs, closing, or signature	Does not include two or more of the following: heading, salutation, body paragraphs, closing, or signature	
Conventions	Does not contain errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation	Contains few errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation	Contains several errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation	Contains many errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation	

Student Name: _____

Writing a Letter

Imagine that you were present for Patrick Henry's speech at the Second Virginia Convention and that a friend has requested a report of your experiences. You will write your friend a letter that analyzes and evaluates the argument, claims, reasoning, and evidence Henry used in his speech.

1. Use the information from the *Evaluating Arguments & Claims* activity to develop your letter.
2. Include a heading, salutation, body paragraphs, closing, and signature.
3. Briefly describe the purpose of Patrick Henry's speech.
4. Include an analysis and evaluation of Henry's overall argument and at least two of his major claims, including how valid the reasoning/evidence is and how effectively the reasoning/evidence supports the claims.
5. Provide an evaluation of how well the claims support the overall argument, including your opinion whether Henry's speech was effective in persuading his audience.
6. Make sure to write the letter as though you witnessed the speech.
7. Edit your letter for correct grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.