

# IMPROMPTU WRITING RUBRIC

10 point distribution

## FOCUS

- 0 – missing a thesis; no controlling idea; no sense of direction
- 1 – a controlling idea or thesis is present but weakly presented
- 2 – strong thesis; strong sense of direction; original, provocative focus

## DEVELOPMENT

- 0 – meaning is so vague and abstract it is practically unintelligible
- 1 – ideas are expressed reasonably and intelligibly, although there may be lapses
- 2 – complexity, depth, fluency of thought; vivid and concrete supporting detail

## ORGANIZATION

- 0 – no sense of essay structure or sequencing of ideas
- 1 – demonstrates ability to structure and sequence ideas appropriately, although there may be lapses—moments of incoherence or weakness in some part of the structure
- 2 – competent structure and sequencing of ideas; originality

## STYLE

- 0 – inappropriate tone, syntax, word choice
- 1 – appropriate tone, syntax, word choices, although there may be weaknesses or lapses that create a confused impression of the writer's attitude
- 2 – calls attention to itself as excellent or impressive; superb fluency and variety in vocabulary, diction, and/or sentence structure; uniqueness of voice; a paper that has substance *and* personality

## CORRECTNESS

- 0 – frequent errors that heavily interfere with intelligibility
- 1 – occasional errors that create a bad impression but do not interfere with intelligibility
- 2 – virtually error-free