

## Earth History Essay

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards	Score
<b>Focus or Thesis Statement</b>	The thesis statement names the topic- (Best Era in Earth History- the dates, any periods within Era) of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.	The thesis statement names the topic (Best Era in Earth History- the dates, any periods within Era) of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed.	
<b>Content</b>	Includes 7 or more pieces of evidence (Organisms/ Events in Era, Rock Layers/ Super Group, Unconformities) that support the position statement.	Includes 5-6 pieces of evidence (Organisms/ Events in Era, Rock Layers/ Super Group, Unconformities) that support the position statement.	Includes 3-4 pieces of evidence (Organisms/ Events in Era, Rock Layers/ Super Group, Unconformities) that support the position statement.	Includes 2 or fewer pieces of evidence (Organisms/ Events in Era, Rock Layers/ Super Group, Unconformities)	
<b>Organization</b>	There are at least 3 paragraphs. The supporting details are in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author's train of thought.	There are at least 3 paragraphs. The supporting details are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the author's train of thought.	There are two paragraphs. The supporting details are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem a little confusing.	There is one paragraph. Many of the support details are not in an expected or logical order; distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing.	

<b>Evidence and Examples</b>	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
<b>Grammar &amp; Spelling</b>	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	
<b>Document Attributes</b>	Margins are set at 1.00" left and right and .5" top and bottom. Font size is 12 and Veranda. Essay length 250 Minimum	3 out of 4 document attributes are followed (margins, font size & style, essay length)	2 out of 4 document attributes are followed (margins, font size & style, essay length)	1 out of 4 document attributes are followed (margins, font size & style, essay length)	
<b>Closing paragraph</b>	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.	