

Elizabeth Frasciello  
Assignment 7: Assessing Essays

Your study of Japanese culture has been brought from Social Studies all the way to the Music class. In an organized and neatly formatted essay, demonstrate what you know about Japanese music by thoughtfully describing Japanese songs, instruments, and dance. How are Japanese songs, instruments, and dance similar and/or different from songs, instruments, and dance in America?

I believe the most important part of creating an essay question is that the expectations are clearly stated. Anything required in the rubric should be stated in the essay prompt. I chose two main criteria for the essay and subcategorized them into 4 areas of evaluation. Ultimately the students are responsible for covering the content asked for in the essay prompt, and presenting a neat and organized essay. Notice I included my expectations of presentation; I did not leave this as a surprise. The difficulty in designing this assignment was making sure I asked for everything I expected while keeping the essay prompt concise and clear. Another difficulty was word choice for the rubric. It's hard to find the perfect words to say what I mean, while still using vocabulary that is 4<sup>th</sup> grade friendly.

		4	3	2	1
<b>Content</b>	<u>Describing Japanese Music</u>	Student thoughtfully described all 3 aspects of Japanese music required.	Student thoughtfully described at least 2 aspects of Japanese music required.	Student thoughtfully describes at least one of the 3 aspects of Japanese music required.	Student did not thoughtfully describe any of the 3 aspects of Japanese music required (songs, instruments, dance).
	<u>Comparing music of Japan and America</u>	Valuable and thoughtful comparison was made between music in Japan and America regarding all 3 required aspects.	Thoughtful comparison was made between music in Japan and America regarding at least 2 of the required aspects.	Little or no comparison was made to music in America. (At least one aspect of music was compared.)	No comparison was made to music in America.
<b>Presentation</b>	<u>Format/ Neatness</u>	Content is clearly and thoughtfully organized and readable.	Content shows some evidence of organization.	Content is not organized and is difficult to read.	Content is unreadable.
	<u>Grammar/ Spelling</u>	Grammar and spelling mistakes are extremely rare and do not effect the readers' understanding of essay content.	Grammar mistakes occur but do not effect the readers' understanding of essay content.	Grammar mistakes occur frequently and make content very difficult to understand.	Grammar and spelling mistakes make content almost impossible to understand.

Teacher Comments: