

MARKING RUBRIC

The marking rubric is designed to ensure consistency when assessing whether students have mastered the Seven Steps techniques in their writing. It can be used for Narrative, Persuasive or Informative writing. Text-type-specific marking rubrics and our Track Your Success resources are available on Seven Steps Online: www.sevenstepswriting.com/members/seven-steps-online/

Step 1: Plan for Success

Beginner	0–2 marks	There is evidence of some planning, but only one idea or a couple of unrelated ideas have been developed.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	There is evidence of planning, with ideas supported by some elaboration.
Advanced	6–7 marks	There is strong evidence of planning, with ideas selected and crafted to advance the plot or argument, or to convey information effectively.

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Beginner	0–2 marks	The text has an introduction, but fails to engage the reader immediately.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	The text has a clear introduction that engages the reader.
Advanced	6–7 marks	The text has a well developed introduction that immediately engages the reader's interest, making them want to read more.

Step 3: Tightening Tension

Beginner	0–2 marks	There is no build-up of tension/momentum/persuasion in the text.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	There is a build-up of tension/momentum/persuasion but the tension scene/crescendo needs to be expanded further.
Advanced	6–7 marks	There is a build-up of tension/momentum/persuasion and a powerful tension scene/crescendo.

Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Beginner	0–2 marks	There is minimal use of dialogue/quotations.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	Some dialogue/quotations are used to develop parts of the plot or argument, or to provide expert perspectives.
Advanced	6–7 marks	Dialogue/quotations are used effectively throughout the text to strengthen the plot or argument, or to provide expert perspectives.

Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Beginner	0–2 marks	The text tells rather than shows the reader, which makes the story, argument or information less convincing and engaging.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	In some instances the text attempts to show the reader rather than telling them.
Advanced	6–7 marks	The text shows rather than tells the reader in all relevant instances, and as a result it is very compelling.

Step 6: Ban the Boring

Beginner	0–2 marks	The text contains unnecessary content that does not add anything to the plot/argument or is irrelevant to the topic.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	Care has been taken to eliminate most of the unnecessary content, and as a result the text flows well and maintains the reader's interest.
Advanced	6–7 marks	This is a highly cohesive piece of writing which shows continuity of ideas and contains tightly linked sections with no unnecessary content.

Step 7: Exciting Endings/Endings with Impact

Beginner	0–2 marks	The text has a 'quick fix'/abrupt ending which leaves the reader dissatisfied.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	The ending is clear, but lacks excitement/impact.
Advanced	6–7 marks	The ending is well planned, wraps everything up and makes the reader think or take action.

Please note, secretarial skills such as spelling, punctuation and grammar are not covered in the Seven Steps, but you may decide to assess these using your own criteria.

MARKING SHEET

Student name: Date:

Title/Topic:

Step 1: Plan for Success

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Step 3: Tightening Tension

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Comment:

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Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Comment:

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Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Comment:

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Step 6: Ban the Boring

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Step 7: Exciting Endings/Endings with Impact

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Writing goals:

Please note, secretarial skills such as spelling, punctuation and grammar have/have not been assessed.