7.5 Go West Rubric

Apply – Writing Assignment

Total Points – 20

Writing Assignment: You are at the junction of the California and Oregon trails having traveled there from your home in the eastern United States. You had planned to go to Oregon, claim land and farm. But now you hear about the Gold Strikes in California. Decide whether you are going to go to Oregon and farm or go to California and hope to strike it rich**. Write a letter home telling your spouse of your decision. Use the lesson and the primary sources you’ve read to explain your decision.** You may create any family members or scenarios you wish, just be certain to use facts and primary source items to demonstrate your knowledge of the lesson.

**Rubric**

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| **Description** | **Exceptional 18-20 points** | **Proficient**  **15-17 points** | **Adequate**  **14-16** | **Inadequate**  **5-13** |
| **Focus**: The author focuses on the topic. | The author clearly focuses and composes a compelling and interesting paper that makes a unified whole. | The author focuses on the topic and doesn’t stray for his purpose. | The author addresses the topic but sometimes strays from his main purpose. | The author doesn’t show a clear understanding of his topic or wanders away quickly |
| **Development:**  The author presents facts that support his main topic. | The author provides interesting, significant and relevant facts, details, and examples. | The author provides interesting and relevant facts and examples. | The author provides descriptions and examples but it lacks relevance or interest. | The author provides few relevant examples or descriptions. |
| **Audience:** The author stays true to the format and writes in first person. | The author consistently addresses his audience and writes in the first person. | The author addresses his audience and usually stays in the first person. | The author generally stays true to his audience, but may stray from the concept some. | The author shows little understanding of the format. |
| **Cohesion**: The author keeps a clear and logical sequence of thought. | The author uses transitions and language that keeps his thoughts clear to the reader. | The author keeps in thoughts in order but lacks exceptional language use. | The author tells an understandable sequence of thought though it lacks expertise. | The author writes in a confused and illogical manner which makes it hard for the reader to understand. |