

Wiley University EPP Application Essay Rubric

Essay Prompt Options (Choose One):

1. Why do you want to be a teacher?
2. Describe a teacher who has inspired you and explain how that experience shaped your decision to pursue education.
3. What do you believe are the most important qualities of an effective teacher, and how do you embody those qualities?

Essay Requirements: 300 words | Total Points: 20

Criteria	Exemplary (5 pts)	Proficient (4 pts)	Basic (3 pts)	Needs Improvement (1-2 pts)	Points Earned
Content & Relevance to Prompt	Fully addresses chosen prompt with depth and insight; demonstrates a strong connection to the teaching profession	Clearly addresses prompt with relevant content; shows a general connection to teaching	Addresses prompt but lacks depth or specificity; connection to teaching is vague or surface-level	Minimally addresses prompt or off-topic; unclear or weak connection to teaching	
Organization & Structure	Clear introduction, body, and conclusion; logical flow and effective transitions	Organized with clear paragraphing; transitions may be basic	Some structure, but lacks clarity or has awkward flow	Poorly organized or difficult to follow; lacks clear structure or transitions	
Voice & Professional Tone	Maintains a strong, reflective, and professional tone throughout	Mostly professional tone; minor lapses into casual or informal language	Tone is inconsistent or too casual for an academic essay	Lacks professionalism; overly informal, inappropriate tone, or unengaged	
Grammar, Mechanics & Spelling	Virtually no errors; excellent control of language,	Few minor errors that do not impede	Noticeable errors, but meaning is generally clear	Frequent grammar/spelling issues that affect	

	punctuation, and sentence structure	understandi ng		readability or credibility	
Clarity & Written Communicat ion Skills	Ideas are expressed clearly and concisely; demonstrate s strong command of language	Ideas are mostly clear; minor wordiness or awkward phrasing	Some unclear or underdevelo ped ideas; occasional awkward or confusing language	Difficult to understand due to vague ideas or poor wording; lacks coherence	

Final Score: ____ / 20