

SCIENCE BOUND
Eighth Grade Preparatory Program Reflective Essay Rubric (100 points)

Thesis Component	Thesis Sub-component	Description	Points Possible	Points Awarded
Thesis Paragraph (15)				
	Thesis Sentence (8)	The sentence is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear and well stated • tells the reader the focus of the entire paper 	6-8 OR 0	
	Introduction of Main Points (5)	The paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduces the main points to be made • correlates with the body of the paper • relates to the thesis 	4-5 OR 0	
	Overall Quality of Paragraph (2)	The paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explains how the essay is organized • captures SB goals • includes a clear sequence that correlates the thesis paragraph with the body 	2 OR 0	
Body of Essay (50)				
	Organization (10)	Every paragraph of the paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ties back to the thesis • includes 2-4 paragraphs with one topic per paragraph 	10 OR	
		Some paragraphs of the paper do not tie back to thesis, or there are less than 2 or more than 4 paragraphs.	0-3	
	Reflection on Experiences (25)	The paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explains the meaning of SB experiences for the student • states what the student has learned • <i>clearly summarizes experiences</i> • includes statements of <i>potential contribution to SB that are specific and sincere</i> 	21-25 OR	
		The paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explains the meaning of SB experiences for the student • states what the student has learned but <i>only mentions sincere contributions and/or experiences.</i> 	16-20 OR	
		The paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not state what the student has learned, or • does not state contributions s/he anticipates making to SB (or the contributions are not sincere or specific), or • simply summarizes experiences. 	0-8	
	Future Plans and Career Aspirations (15)	The paper includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASTEM career aspirations with explanations of why a specific career was chosen • <i>goal setting as component</i> to achieve leadership, academic and personal success. 	15 OR	
		The paper includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASTEM career aspirations with explanations of why a specific career was chosen but <i>only references goal setting</i> to achieve leadership, academic and personal success. 	10 OR	
		The paper does not include ASTEM career aspirations and/or misses the importance of goal setting to achieve leadership, academic and personal success.	0-3	

Writing Mechanics (25)				
Presentation (15)				
	Visual (3)	The paper is visually appealing, including the use of a font that looks professional.	3 OR	
		The paper is not visually appealing or the font choice is inappropriate (too large, unprofessional, etc.).	0	
	Connections (7)	The paper has strong transitions: each paragraph smoothly leads the reader into the next main point.	7 OR	
		The paper has weak transitions and does not lead from one point to another.	0-2	
	Labels (5)	The paper includes the title, author, and school at the top of the first page.	5 OR	
		The paper is missing either the title, author, or school on the first page.	0	
Grammar (10)				
	Word use (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or fewer errors 	5 OR	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 3 errors 	0	
	Punctuation (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct use of periods, commas, etc. 	5 OR	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 2 punctuation errors 	0	
Conclusion (10)				
		The conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ties back to the thesis statement • summarizes key ideas • reminds of main points • explains the importance of the thesis 	10 OR	
		The conclusion does not include one of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ties back to the thesis statement • summary of key ideas • reminder of main points • explanation of importance of the thesis 	7 OR	
		The conclusion does not include two or more of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tie back to the thesis statement • summary of key ideas • reminder of main points • explanation of importance of the thesis 	0-3	
Total Points Awarded: _____				