

## State Essay Rubric

Category	4 (Excellent)	3 (Proficient)	2 (Basic)	1 (Needs Improvement)
<b>Introduction</b>	The introduction includes a compelling hook and a clear, well-written overview of the state and report.	The introduction has a clear hook and overview, but it may lack some engagement or clarity.	The introduction provides basic information, but the hook or overview is weak or unclear.	The introduction lacks a hook and a clear overview, or is missing key details.
<b>Geography</b>	Detailed description of the state's location, landforms, and climate with specific examples and accurate facts. Includes a map with labeled cities and features.	Includes clear descriptions of location, landforms, and climate with some examples and mostly accurate facts. Map included with some labeling.	Provides general information on geography but lacks specific examples or details. Map may be incomplete or unclear.	Minimal or unclear description of the state's geography. Map is missing or incomplete.
<b>Basic State Info</b>	Thoroughly describes the state flag, motto, nickname, bird, flower, and tree with specific details and clear explanations.	Describes the state flag, motto, nickname, bird, flower, and tree with adequate details, but may be lacking some explanations or specifics.	Provides limited information on the state's flag, motto, nickname, bird, flower, and tree with few details or unclear explanations.	Fewer than required details on state flag, motto, nickname, bird, flower, and tree; vague or incomplete.
<b>Economy &amp; Industry</b>	In-depth explanation of the state's major industries, including specific examples and details about the agricultural, manufacturing, or technological sectors.	Describes the state's industries with general details and a few specific examples. Some sections may lack depth or clarity.	Provides basic information about the state's economy and industries, but lacks specific examples or depth.	The section on economy and industries is vague or missing important details and examples.

<b>History</b>	Clear description of major historical events and notable figures with detailed facts and explanations of their significance.	Describes important historical events and figures with some detail, but may lack full explanations of their significance.	Provides basic information on historical events and people, but lacks depth or specific details.	Missing key historical events or figures; descriptions are unclear or too vague.
<b>Culture &amp; Interesting Facts</b>	Includes specific cultural traditions, famous people, and fun facts, providing detailed examples and explanations.	Describes some cultural traditions, famous people, and facts with some examples, but may lack detail or clarity in some areas.	Includes a few cultural traditions, famous people, or facts, but lacks detail or completeness.	Cultural traditions, famous people, or facts are missing or very vague.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Provides a strong summary that reinforces the main points of the report, with a thoughtful closing thought.	Summarizes key points adequately with a clear conclusion, but the final thought may not be as strong or thought-provoking.	Summarizes the report but may be lacking in clarity or a strong closing thought.	The conclusion is weak or missing. There is no clear summary or final thought.
<b>Organization &amp; Grammar</b>	The essay is well-organized with clear paragraphs, strong transitions, and excellent grammar and spelling.	The essay is organized with mostly clear paragraphs and transitions. Minor grammar or spelling errors are present.	The essay has some organizational issues, and there may be frequent grammar or spelling errors.	The essay lacks organization, contains numerous grammar or spelling errors, or is difficult to follow.

### Scoring Key

- **4 (Excellent):** Student demonstrates a thorough understanding of the state with well-developed, clear, and detailed content. The essay is organized and free of errors.
- **3 (Proficient):** Student demonstrates an adequate understanding of the state with clear content and organization, but may need more detail or contain minor errors.
- **2 (Basic):** Student provides basic or limited details, with significant issues in clarity, organization, or grammar.
- **1 (Needs Improvement):** The essay lacks necessary information, has serious issues in organization and clarity, or contains major errors.