

Below is the rubric that will be used to grade the essay portion of the PTA application

Total points 35 available – (Total points will be divided by 3 and then added to the Admissions point calculation)

	Masterful (5)	Skilled (4)	Able (3)	Developing (2)	Novice (1)	Way Off (0)
Focus & Purpose	Engaging and full development of a clear idea	Competent and well-developed; represents sound and adequate understanding of the healthcare	Mostly intelligible ideas, weak, unclear, too broad or not supported	Mostly simplistic and unfocused, little to no sense of purpose	Ideas are extremely simple; showing signs of confusion or misunderstanding of prompt	Complete confusion and lack of purpose to writing
Ideas are supported and developed	Consistent evidence with originality and depth of ideas; Ideas are supported, specific, and work together as a whole	Ideas supported sufficiently; support is sound, valid, and logical	Main points and ideas are only indirectly supported; support isn't sufficient of specific, but is loosely relevant to main points	Insufficient, non-specific, and irrelevant support	Lack of support for main points, frequent and illogical generalizations without support	Clear absence of support for main points
Structure, Organization	Organization is sequential and appropriate to the prompt; paragraphs are well developed and appropriately divided; ideas linked with smooth and effective transitions	Competent organization without sophistication. Complete paragraphs but lacking in effective transitions	Limited attempts to organize around a main point; paragraphs are mostly stand-alones with weak or no transitions	Organization was attempted but unsuccessful; paragraphs were simple, disconnected and not sequence	Organization is confusing and disjointed; transitions are missing, inappropriate and/or illogical	No paragraph structure, rambling
Audience, Tone, and Point of View	Tone and point of view appropriate	Effective and accurate awareness of general audience, tone and point of view satisfactory	Tone and point of view not consistent	Shows almost no grasp of tone or point of view	Tone and point of view somewhat inappropriate or very inconsistent	Tone completely inappropriate to prompt
Sentence Structure and Grammar	Each sentence structured effectively; powerfully; rich, well chosen variety of	Effective and varied sentences, some careless errors	Repeated sentence patterns; some non-standard syntax usage	Sentences show errors of structure; no variety and no flow	Simple sentences used excessively; frequent errors of sentence structure	Fragments, run-ons, unable to write a simple sentence

	sentence styles and length					
Mechanics and Presentation	Virtually free of punctuation, spelling, capitalization errors	Contains only occasional punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization errors	Contains several punctuation, spelling, and capitalization errors	Contains many errors and errors interfere with meaning	Contains many and serious errors in punctuation, spelling, and/or capitalization; Interferes with meaning	Grammar mistakes hinder communication
Vocabulary and Word Usage	Exceptional vocabulary range, accuracy, and correct and effective word usage	Good vocabulary range and accuracy of usage	Ordinary vocabulary range, mostly accurate	Errors in diction and usage, but do not interfere with readability	Extremely limited vocabulary, usage is inaccurate	Diction and syntax make communication meaningless or confusing
	Masterful	Skilled	Able	Developing	Novice	Way Off

