Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Self Reliance Essay Rubric

**Prompt**: Explain a current American societal problem and give a transcendentalist solution to the problem that relates to a key passage from Emerson’s essay “Self-Reliance”

**Purpose**: Problem solve using transcendentalist reasoning

**Audience**: Standard

**Purpose and Focus \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 8**

* An extended metaphor, example, short personal narrative, or frame introduces the essay.
* A specific current American societal problem is established by the end of the introduction.
* The thesis statement clearly states why the problem American Societal Problem is important.
* The conclusion explains what’s at stake if the problem persists.
* ***The chosen passage from “Self Reliance” has a strong connection to the current American societal problem.***

STRONG ADEQUATE DEVELOPING EMERGING NOT YET

**Topic Development, Evidence, and Persuasion \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 8**

* The current American societal problem is thoroughly explained with specific details.
* The current American societal problem is thoroughly explained with cause and effect relationships.
* The current American societal problem is thoroughly explained with conclusion.
* Personal narrative of experiment establishes a clear conclusion or generalization about the American Societal Problem.
* The evidence used is specific and accurate to the topic.
* The evidence brings credibility to the author’s claims.
* The word choice adds to the pathos and logos of the essay.

STRONG ADEQUATE DEVELOPING EMERGING NOT YET

**Form and Style \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 6**

* The essay transitions easily between main ideas.
* Purposeful sentence beginnings add style and variety to structure.
* Precise nouns and modifiers create pictures in the reader's mind.
* Striking words and phrases often catch the reader's eye--and linger in the reader's mind.

STRONG ADEQUATE DEVELOPING EMERGING NOT YET

**Conventions \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 6**

* ***Sentences are constructed in a way that helps make meaning clear.***
* Fragments, if used, add style.
* Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style.
* Punctuation is accurate and guides the reader through the text.
* Spelling is correct.

STRONG ADEQUATE DEVELOPING EMERGING NOT YET

**Total** **\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 28**

**Improvements**

**Explanation**

STRONG: Shows control and skill in this trait; many strengths present

ADEQUATE: On balance, the strengths outweigh the weaknesses; a small number of revisions needed.

DEVELOPING: Strengths and need for revisions are about equal; about half-way home.

EMERGING: Need for revision outweighs strengths; isolated moments hint at what the writer has in mind.

NOT YET: A bare beginning; writer not yet showing any real thought or control.