

Rubrics and exemplars: Grade 6

Focus Rubric

Focus Definition: To select and thoroughly develop one specific moment, idea, or claim.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND almost all sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND most sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND some sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND almost none of the sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

Note: Scores for Focus are affected by the number of words in a student's response. To adequately demonstrate proficiency, a student must provide enough writing to show they can maintain this skill consistently across multiple sentences.

Focus Exemplars

The Focus rubric targets a student's ability to thoroughly develop one moment, idea, or claim. In the annotations included here, we distinguish between text details and explanatory sentences to demonstrate how students can use these elements to develop a moment, idea, or claim.

Writing Prompt: Dahl says earlier in the chapter that Mrs. Pratchett was “a horror” (24).

Do you agree or disagree? Describe two or three details from the passage to develop your claim about Mrs. Pratchett.

Focus score of 1

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND almost none of the sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

I agree because she is disgusting because she has a mustache and gross hands. The candy man died because the villagers killed him and now you say candyman 5 times and turn the lights off in the bathroom. This woman should be called the candy lady.

- The student states a claim.
 - The student includes text details that develop the claim.
 - The student writes sentences that are off-topic or that do not develop the claim.
 - The student writes 46 words and can score a 1 in Focus.
 - The student receives a score of 1 because most of the sentences do not develop the claim.
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Focus score of 2

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND some sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

I agree because the way Mrs. Pratchett looks would scare me. I think that if I walked in there and I saw her I would grab my candy, throw the money at the register then run all the way home and tell my mom. Some details that support my claim are her fingernails, her description and her shirt and apron with her breakfast and tea all over it.

- The student states a claim.
 - The student includes text details that develop the claim.
 - The student writes a sentence that develops the idea of being scared but that does not focus on a moment in the text.
 - The student writes 68 words and can score a 1 or 2 in Focus.
 - The student receives a score of 2 because some of the sentences develop the claim.
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Focus score of 3

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND most sentences develop the same precise moment, idea, or claim.

I agree that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror because she is mean and filthy. First she is mean. For example the story tells us that Mrs. Pratchett said, "keep yer thie'vn finger off them chocolates!" She should at least be happy she has consistent customers. And even when they're not buying anything she could introduce them to something new so they would want to try it so they would buy it. Next she is filthy. For instance the story tells us that, "her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had a bit of breakfast all over it, toast crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk." The reason this is filthy is she should wash her apron daily if not at least every other day. But I don't think she has ever washed her apron. And she has bits of food on it and stains covering it, she should just buy a new apron. Mrs. Pratchett should stop being mean and filthy because it pushes customers away from the store.

- The student clearly states and restates a claim.
 - The student includes text details that develop the claim.
 - The student writes sentences that explain how the text details develop the claim.
 - The student includes sentences that are related to Mrs. Pratchett's behavior but that do not directly develop the claim.
 - The student writes 173 words and can score a 1, 2, 3, or 4 in Focus.
 - The student receives a score of 3 because most of the sentences develop the claim.
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Focus score of 4

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND almost all sentences develop the same moment, idea, or claim.

I agree with Roald Dahl that Mrs. Pratchett was "a horror." According to the text, she is really unfriendly to the children who come in to buy the sweets. Dahl states, "She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in." She also said rude and mean things to kids. When Dahl and his friends were in the store, "I'm watchin' you so keep yer thievin' fingers off them chocolates!" Another reason why she is a "horror" is the way her hands look when she hands out the sweets. According to Dahl, they "looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long." That is not very appealing when someone is getting something with their hands for you. That shows us how disgusting Dahl thought she was. As you can see, Mrs. Pratchett is a horrible person to be running a sweet shop for children.

- The student clearly states and restates a claim.
 - The student includes text details that develop the claim.
 - The student writes additional sentences that develop the claim.
 - The student writes 160 words and can score a 1, 2, 3, or 4 in Focus.
 - The student receives a score of 4 because all of the sentences develop the claim.
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Use of Evidence Rubric

Use of Evidence Definition: To select and describe quoted or paraphrased details from a text to develop and support an idea or claim.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND includes strong evidence in their response. Student describes the key parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND includes strong evidence in their response. Student describes most of the key parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND includes some evidence in their response. Student describes some parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND includes almost no evidence in their response. Student does not describe parts of that evidence and does not show how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

Note: Scores for Use of Evidence are affected by the number of words in a student's response. To adequately demonstrate proficiency, a student must provide enough writing to show they can maintain this skill consistently across multiple sentences.

Use of Evidence Exemplars

Writing Prompt: Dahl says earlier in the chapter that Mrs. Pratchett was "a horror" (24).

Do you agree or disagree? Describe two or three details from the passage to develop your claim about Mrs. Pratchett.

Use of Evidence score of 1

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND includes almost no evidence in their response. Student does not describe parts of that evidence and does not show how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

I agree that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror. She is a "small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry." Also she yells at the kids a lot when they come into the store.

- The student states a claim.
- The student includes textual evidence in the form of a quotation and a paraphrase, but the student does not describe how either piece of evidence connects to the claim.
- The student writes 45 words and can score a 1 in Use of Evidence.
- The student receives a score of 1 because they do not describe how parts or elements of their textual evidence connect to the claim.

Use of Evidence score of 2

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND includes some evidence in their response. Student describes some parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

I think she was a horror because she didn't smile or talk that much all she says is "I'm watchin' you" and "Either you forks out or you gets out!" She never washed her apron ever and "Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk." She never washed her hands which made them black. As Roald Dahl said, "It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime."

- The student states a claim.
- The student provides 3 quotations as textual evidence.
- The student includes minimal description of how the textual evidence connects to the claim.
- The student writes 90 words and can score a 1, 2, or 3 in Use of Evidence.
- The student receives a score of 2 because they include some textual evidence, but the student does not adequately describe how some parts or elements connect to the claim.

Use of Evidence score of 3

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND includes strong evidence in their response. Student describes most of the key parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

I agree that Ms. Pratchett was a complete horror. First of all, she was mean. For example, Dahl mentions the hostile things Mrs. Pratchett yells at them. "I'm watchin' you so keep yer thevin' fingers off those chocolates!" Or, "I don't want you in 'ere just to look around!" Would you want to be around anyone who treats you that badly? I'm guessing not. Dahl also mentions how she never welcomed him and his friend into the store. It seems that Ms. Pratchett is a very rude worker. Secondly, Dahl describes how her apron is all dirty and "a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry." Finally, Dahl says, "it was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime." That sounds unimaginably unclean. I wonder how that shop stayed open. This is why I think Ms. Pratchett is a horror.

- The student clearly states and restates a claim.
- The student includes textual evidence in the form of 4 quotations and a paraphrase.
- The student provides some description of how each piece of textual evidence connects to the claim.
- The student writes 156 words and can score a 1, 2, 3, or 4 in Use of Evidence.
- The student receives a score of 3 because they include textual evidence and describe how each piece of evidence connects to the claim, but the student does not fully develop these descriptions.

Use of Evidence score of 4

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND includes strong evidence in their response. Student describes the key parts of that evidence and shows how the evidence supports their idea or claim.

I agree with Roald Dahl's statement that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror. First, the way she looks is revolting. "She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry." This description doesn't really make me think that Mrs Pratchett is a clean lady. He also uses the word "hag," which means an ugly old woman. Second, the way Mrs Pratchett speaks to people is terrifying. When she does talk to Roald Dahl and his friends, she yells at them. That is terrifying, because I can imagine her yelling at me, "I'm watchin' you so keep yer thievin' fingers off them chocolates!" This shows that she only cares about her money. Finally, the way she acts is just disgusting. Dahl says that her hands are black and full of grime, but it's most disgusting when he describes "her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a jar." The way he uses the detail "grime" makes me picture her gross hands and almost want to puke. This overall description of the way Mrs Pratchett looks, acts, and speaks makes me think that Dahl is correct. Mrs Pratchett is a horrifying hag.

- The student clearly states and restates a claim.
- The student includes 3 quotations as textual evidence.
- The student thoroughly describes how elements of the textual evidence are connected to the claim, including the impact of specific word choices.
- The student writes 212 words and can score a 1, 2, 3, or 4 in Use of Evidence.
- The student receives a score of 4 because they include textual evidence and fully describe how the parts or elements connect to the claim, including the importance of individual words and phrases.