

Port Chicago Response Instructions and Rubric

Over 70 years have passed since the Port Chicago disaster. Many Americans know very little about the events at Port Chicago. In addition, the African American sailors charged with mutiny have never been cleared of the charges. Your task is to write a letter to an elected official stating whether or not you think the current president should pardon the sailors who refused to load ammunition following the Port Chicago explosion.

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Emerging
Ideas and Organization	Ideas are expressed in a clear and organized fashion. Writer's position is evident throughout the letter.	Ideas are expressed in a somewhat clear manner, but the organization could be better.	Ideas are somewhat organized, but are not very clear. More than one reading required to understand the writer's position.	The letter is quite confusing. It is extremely difficult to understand the writer's position.
Content and Use of Evidence	The letter contains five or six accurate facts about the Port Chicago explosion.	The letter contains three or four accurate facts about the Port Chicago explosion.	The letter contains two or three accurate facts about the Port Chicago explosion.	The letter contains one or no accurate facts about the Port Chicago explosion.
Spelling and Grammar	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes one or two errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes three or four errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes more than four errors in grammar and/or spelling.