

**NKU School of Nursing
DNP Program Admission Writing Sample Rubric**

Please submit a 500-word structured essay about the following writing prompt:

In making your decision to advance your practice with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, please discuss all the following:

- ✚ Your interest in achieving a degree as a DNP
- ✚ Your personal and professional goals as a DNP
- ✚ How you see yourself in the role of a DNP
- ✚ How attaining a DNP will enhance your professional presence

The word count excludes the title and reference pages. The paper and references should be written using proper writing mechanics.

	Acceptable (4-5 Points)	Unacceptable (0-3 Points)	Score/Point
-Introductory Statement/Topic & Content Development	The introductory statement/topic is coherently developed and maintained throughout. A thorough explanation of the key idea(s) is at an appropriate level for the target audience. Critical thinking is demonstrated by an excellent understanding/description of the topic. The essay is easy to understand and did not leave the reader with questions due to incomplete development.	It is unclear what the author is trying to say. A more significant explanation or illustration of some of the critical ideas is needed. The reader is left with some questions due to inadequate content development. It is unclear what the author is trying to communicate.	
Organization	The essay has an excellent organization with a clear focus and excellent transition between paragraphs. The essay is written and presents information in a logical order. The paragraphs are well-organized and easy to understand.	There is good organizational style, although flow is somewhat choppy and may wander occasionally. The readability of the essay is compromised due to the organization of paper or paragraphs.	
Mechanics	There is a skillful use of language with varied, accurate vocabulary. The essay contains a well-developed sentence structure with minimal errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar—use of active professional voice.	Many difficulties in sentence structure, grammar, citation style, punctuation, spelling and/or misused words.	
Word Limit Requirement	Meets minimum word count of 500. Does not exceed word count of 750.	Does not meet minimum word count of 500. Exceeds word count of 750.	
Total Points/Score for Writing Sample (Scores ≤16 is Unacceptable)			__/20