



Essay Rubric

Criteria	Points 4 (9-10) pts.	3 (8) pts.	2 (7) pts.	1 (6) pts.
Structure & Organization (4 pts.)	Introduction, body, and conclusion are well defined and effective. Thesis and topic sentence are clear and relevant. There are smooth transitions between paragraphs. The paper reads smoothly.	Introduction, body and/or conclusion may have minor errors, but reader can still follow the flow of the paper.	Introduction, body, and/or conclusion have significant flaws which affect flow of paper, such as missing thesis, transition, topic sentence.	Paper may be missing a paragraph, thesis, or have some other structural error which makes the paper ineffective.
Content Knowledge (10 pts.)	Student addresses the essay topic explicitly by applying her or his full and specific content knowledge.	Student demonstrates knowledge of content, but doesn't elaborate clearly—e.g., key details are missing.	Student gives plot summary or little analysis, demonstrating minimal content knowledge or understanding.	Student fails to provide any evidence of her or his comprehension of the content.
Grammar & Spelling (4 pts.)	There are no spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors.	There are one or two spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors.	There are three spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors.	There are four or more spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors.
Citation Format (4 pts.)	All citations are used appropriately, formatted properly, and explained thoroughly.	One or two citations are missing or formatted incorrectly.	Three or four citations are missing or formatted incorrectly.	Five or more citations are missing or formatted incorrectly.
Quote Effectiveness (4 pts.)	Quotes are used to make specific and effective references to main idea.	Quotes generally support the main idea with few exceptions—e.g., weak explanation or analysis.	Quotes are used ineffectively—e.g., not tied to main idea.	Paper contains no quotes or references.

Grading Scale Chart: Total Point (%)

26 (100%)	25 (96%)	24 (92%)	23 (88%)	22 (85%)	21 (81%)	20 (77%)	19 (73%)	18 (69%)	17 (65%)
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