

Essay Rubric

CRITERIA	Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Fair (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
Thesis	Thesis is well stated, linked to the topic, and gets the reader's attention.	Thesis is weak and mixed among several sentences. However, the topic is apparent.	Thesis is difficult to piece together and understand, but the topic is evident.	Thesis is confusing, hard to recognize, and connection to topic is minimal.	Thesis is not existent, and essay seems to be unrelated to topic.
Content Accuracy	All facts presented in the essay are accurate and relate to the thesis/topic.	Most facts (85%+) presented are accurate & relate to the thesis/topic.	Most facts (70%+) are accurate, but do not always support thesis/topic.	There are several (50%+) factual errors and minimal support of the thesis/topic.	Most facts are wrong and there is no real effort to support thesis/topic.
Topic Focus	Entire essay is related to the topic; adequately addresses all issues; uses specific examples; and effectively informs the reader.	Most of the essay is related to the topic. Most key issues are addressed using general examples. Helps to inform the reader about topic.	Most of the essay is related to the topic. It overlooks some key issues and lacks important evidence. The reader can still learn about the topic.	Some of the essay is related to the topic, but it lacks important information and evidence on key issues. Therefore, the reader gains little knowledge on the topic.	No effort was made to relate the essay to the topic. Key issues were not addressed and it lacks evidence. Reader gains no knowledge on the topic.
Format	Essay is well organized; exceeds required paragraphs; and provides a smooth progression of ideas with clear transitions.	Essay is well organized; utilizes required paragraphs; and follows a logical sequence of ideas with adequate transitions.	Essay is a little hard to follow. Paragraphs are poorly organized. Sequence of ideas is sometimes confusing and transitions are unclear.	Essay is poorly organized. Paragraphs are hard to determine. Ideas seem to be randomly arranged and use of actual transitions is minimal.	No standard essay format was used. Paragraphs seem to be non-existent. Ideas are randomly arranged and there were no transitions.
Writing	Exhibits skillful use of key vocabulary; is free of major grammar or usage errors; demonstrates a wide variety of sentence structure.	Exhibits adequate use of key terms; is free of common grammar or usage errors; demonstrates some variety of sentence structure.	Exhibits limited use and understanding of key terms; contains several repeated errors in grammar or usage, and lacks a variety of sentence structure.	Often uses weak or inappropriate terms; contains numerous errors in grammar or usage, and demonstrates frequent problems with sentence structure.	Displays numerous errors in usage of vocabulary; contains major errors in grammar and usage, and has severe flaws in sentence structure.
Reference	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of idea. Combines material from a variety of sources. Doesn't overuse quotes. Uses APA or another standard citation style.	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of idea. Doesn't overuse quotes, but may not always conform to APA or another standard citation style.	Uses relevant sources but lacks variety of sources and/or the skillful combination of sources. Quotations & paraphrases may be too long and/or inconsistently referenced	Neglects important sources. Overuse of quotations or phrases to substitute writer's own ideas. (Possibly uses source material without acknowledgement.)	Doesn't credit any sources that were used. Uses source material without acknowledgement. Did not use APA style or any other style for citation.

Maximum Points: 30