

Essay Grading Rubric

	A (8)	B (7)	C (6)	D (5)	F (4)
Writing Process ___/8	Includes proof of thoughtful prewriting. Several major revisions are evident from rough to final draft.	Includes proof of thoughtful prewriting. Some significant revisions are evident from rough to final draft.	Includes some evidence of prewriting. Some evidence of minor revisions from rough to final draft.	Includes evidence of minimal or perfunctory prewriting and revision.	No evidence of prewriting or revision. Final draft is identical to rough draft, or simply longer.
Development ___/8	Strong thesis is arguable, clearly stated, and explicitly supported through relevant and appropriate paragraphs.	Thesis is weak, but clearly stated. Most paragraphs are focused and support thesis. OR Strong thesis, but weak connection to body of essay.	Thesis is identifiable, but unclear or not arguable. Most paragraphs are focused and support thesis. OR Weak thesis is weakly connected to body.	Thesis is unclear or unarguable. Few paragraphs are focused or support thesis. OR Thesis is unrelated to body of essay.	Thesis is unidentifiable. Paragraphs are non-existent or arbitrary.
Organization ___/8	Introduction grips attention and pulls reader into the paper. Conclusion is satisfying. Uses interesting and understandable organizational pattern.	Contains gripping introduction OR satisfying conclusion. Uses interesting and understandable organizational pattern.	Introduction and conclusion are present, but somewhat forced. Organizational pattern is understandable but unremarkable.	Introduction and conclusion are minimal or loosely related to rest of the paper. Organizational pattern is unclear.	Introduction and conclusion are absent or completely unrelated to rest of paper. No discernable organizational pattern.
Diction/Style/Tone ___/8	Uses appropriate voice, powerful active verbs, and specific details through entire paper. No lard.	Uses appropriate voice, powerful active verbs, and specific details through majority of paper. Scant lard.	Several occurrences of inappropriate voice, flabby linking verbs, or vague generalities. Some lard.	Only rare occurrences of appropriate voice, active verbs, or specific details. Lots of lard.	Entire paper has inappropriate voice, flabby linking verbs, and vague generalities. Mostly lard.
Sentence Structure ___/8	Uses complete sentences and a wide variety of sentence patterns. Uses various sentence beginnings to aid flow and transition.	Uses complete sentences. Less than 1 run-on or fragment per page. Variety of sentence patterns is somewhat limited. Some sentence beginnings aid flow and transition.	Some sentence fragments or run-ons are evident (1-2 per page). Sentence variety is limited, and few sentence beginnings aid flow and transition.	Frequent sentence fragments and/or run-ons are evident (3-4 per page). Sentence structure is monotonous. Sentences do not aid flow or transition.	Numerous sentence fragments and/or run-ons (5+ per page). Virtually no structural variety. Sentences detract from flow and transition.
Grammar/Spelling/Mechanics ___/8	Errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation are absent or negligible. (0-2 minor errors per page)	Contains very few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Errors do not affect comprehension. (2-4 minor errors per page)	Contains several errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Most errors do not affect comprehension. (5-8 minor and/or less than 1 major error(s) per page)	Contains numerous errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Several errors impede comprehension. (8-12 minor and/or 1-3 major errors per page)	Contains numerous, repeated errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Many errors interfere with comprehension. (13+ minor and/or 4+ major errors per page)
Assignment-specific requirements ___/8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 points base grade <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement 1 (1 point) <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement 2 (1 point) <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement 3 (1 point) <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement 4 (1 point)			TOTAL ___/56	
Comments:					