

Grading Rubric

Score	Thesis	Supports	Structure	Mechanics	Style
5	The essay's thesis is clearly stated and presents an arguable answer to the question as assigned. Its scope is appropriate for the assignment.	The essay draws on specific, appropriate examples from the text for each argument and explains how the evidence supports the argument.	The essay has a clear introduction, an interpretive conclusion and its paragraphs present coherent arguments for the thesis in a logical and persuasive order.	The essay is formatted correctly and is free of grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; citations are presented correctly.	The essay is readable and engaging and free of awkward word choices, constructions or transitions.
4	The thesis is clear and appropriate in scope, but fails to present an arguable answer to the question.	No more than one of the essay's arguments lacks sufficient, appropriate and/or well interpreted textual evidence.	No more than one of the essay's paragraphs fails to serve a clear purpose in a logical and coherent argument.	Minor errors of grammar, spelling or punctuation cloud what would otherwise be a fine essay.	The essay is free of obvious errors but could be more readable or engaging.
3	The thesis statement is either unclear, unrelated to the assignment or inappropriate in its scope.	One or more of the essay's arguments lacks sufficient, appropriate and/or well interpreted textual evidence.	One or more of the essay's paragraphs fails to serve a clear purpose in a logical and coherent argument.	Grammar, spelling and punctuation errors occasionally disrupt the flow of the essay.	Awkward constructions, transitions or word choices occasionally disrupt the flow of the essay.
2	The thesis statement is unclear, unrelated to the assignment and inappropriate in its scope.	The textual evidence presented in the essay is neither sufficient nor appropriate to the argument.	The essay's introduction is vague, its conclusion is non-interpretive and its paragraphs fail to follow a logical or persuasive order.	Grammar, spelling and punctuation issues consistently distract the reader and obscure the essay's argument.	Word choice and syntax consistently distract the reader and obscure the essay's argument.
1	The essay contains no arguable thesis statement.	The essay does not draw on textual evidence of any kind.	The essay has no discernible structure; its paragraphs are incoherent and unrelated to a thesis or argument.	Numerous serious errors of grammar, spelling or punctuation make the essay difficult to understand.	Awkward word choices, constructions and transitions make the essay difficult to understand.