

## Appendix D: Essay grading rubric

	Excellent			Proficient			Average			Pass	
	A+ ≥80	A 79-75	A- 74-70	B+ 69-67	B 66-63	B- 62-60	C+ 59-57	C 56-53	C- 52-50	D+ 46-49	D 40-45
CONTENT											
Introduction:	Attitude is defined; thesis is clearly focused; subject is significant			Thesis is clear; provides direction for essay			Unclear; formulaic; not creative			Introduction is incomplete, ineffective, or missing	
Idea Development:	Interesting; sophisticated; insightful			Clear and Thoughtful			Simplistic; uneven in quality; lacking in relevance			Absent or ineffective	
Support or Evidence:	Detailed; accurate; convincing			Sufficient and accurate			Uneven			Vague, missing, or inaccurate	
Word Choice:	Engaging and powerful choice of words			Appropriate to task			Uneven			Limited, monotonous, inappropriate	
Conclusion:	Extends; connects; comments on topics			Purposeful and perceptive			Summarizes previously stated information			Absent, incomplete, or unfocused	
ORGANIZATION											
Topic Sentences:	Clearly related to thesis; comprehensive; incorporates effective transitions			Comprehensive and logical			Provides bland restatement of thesis; narrow or inaccurate			Absent	
Paragraph Order:	Contributes to an effective argument; reinforces the content			Demonstrates a clear plan			Ineffective or inconsistent			Random	
Transitions:	Effective and varied			Clear and functional			Mechanical			Absent	
MECHANICS											
Sentence Structure:	Complete; varied; interesting			Complete and correct			Variety is present; some errors are evident			Repetitious; fragments and run-ons are frequent	
Punctuation/Spelling:	Error-free			Present but do not interfere with meaning			Careless or distracting			Block meaning	