

Essay Rubric

The 5-point essay:

- has a strong central idea (thesis) that is related to the topic;
- provides compelling support to the thesis topic;
- has a clear, logical organization with well-developed major points that are supported with concrete and specific evidence;
- uses effective transitions between ideas;
- uses appropriate words composing sophisticated sentences;
- expresses ideas freshly and vividly;
- is free of mechanical, grammatical, and spelling errors.
- Is not more or less than required page length.

The 4-point essay:

- has a strong central idea that is related to the assignment;
- has a clear, logical organization with developed major points, but the supporting evidence may not be especially vivid or thoughtful;
- uses appropriate words accurately, but seldom exhibits an admirable style while the sentences tend to be less sophisticated;
- has few mechanical, grammatical, and spelling errors that do not distract from the overall message.
- Is substantially more or less than required page length.

The 3-point essay:

- Not quite a 4-point essay, but better than a 2-point essay.
- Is not related to the assignment
- Is substantially more or less than required page length.

The 2-point essay:

- Is not related to the assignment
- has a central idea that is presented in such a way that the reader understands the writer's purpose;
- has an organization that reveals a plan, but the evidence tends to be general rather than specific or concrete;
- uses common words accurately, but sentences tend to be simplistic and unsophisticated;
- has one or two severe mechanical or grammatical errors.
- Is substantially more or less than required page length.

The 1-point essay will exhibit one or more of the following problems:

- lacks a central idea (no thesis);
- lacks clear organization;
- is not related to the assignment;
- fails to develop main points, or develops them in a repetitious or illogical way;
- fails to use common words accurately;
- uses a limited vocabulary in that chosen words fail to serve the writer's purpose;
- has three or more mechanical or grammatical errors.