

Grading Rubrik

	Outstanding (A paper)	Good (B papers)	Average (C papers)	Unacceptable (D paper)
Structure	<p>Thesis is clear and easy to find, offers an arguable statement, and lends itself to logical argumentation</p> <p>Thesis is supported by the rest of the paper, and essay contains a “roadmap” leading reader to anticipate where the paper will go.</p> <p>All topic sentences are not only present, but grab the reader’s attention and transition between paragraphs in a superior manner</p> <p>Writer presents a highly sophisticated argument that unfolds logically while enticing the reader to continue reading</p> <p>Conclusion is excellent. It restates argument proposed by thesis, and/or links argument to a larger significance. Reader is left with an urge to reflect further on essay’s statement.</p>	<p>Thesis is clear and appropriate, but lacks sophistication of an outstanding essay.</p> <p>Thesis is fairly well supported by the main body of the essay, with at least a basic “roadmap” explaining structure of essay.</p> <p>Paragraphs include clear topic sentences that help the reader follow the flow of the argument.</p> <p>Arguments are all set out logically, stay on topic (that is, body paragraphs all lend support to the thesis)</p> <p>Conclusion follows from remainder of paper. It restates main argument and/or argues for its larger significance.</p>	<p>Thesis is present, but offers an argument that is fairly obvious or is unlikely to be provable.</p> <p>Remainder of essay supports the thesis occasionally, but often wanders to other topics rather than focusing on supporting argument.</p> <p>Topic sentences are generally offered and paragraphs mostly relate to main argument.</p> <p>Argument is organized relatively logically.</p> <p>Conclusion is present, but adds little to the paper.</p>	<p>Thesis absent or inappropriate.</p> <p>No support for thesis, paper is not organized.</p> <p>Topic sentences are missing, or fail to push forward argument in a logical manner.</p> <p>There is little logic to set up of argument, or organization is lacking.</p> <p>Paper lacks a conclusion.</p>
Research	<p>Essay utilizes high-quality sources to defend its argument. Citations specifically support the thesis and help further the author’s argument.</p> <p>Sources are cited perfectly, and author has included a proper footnotes and bibliography.</p>	<p>Evidence utilizes valid sources.</p> <p>Sources are basically cited properly, including footnotes and bibliography.</p>	<p>Most sources valid, but author relies too much on less sophisticated resources (encyclopedias, the writings of non-experts) for key parts of his or her argument.</p> <p>Citations are incomplete or occasionally out of order, but both footnotes and bibliography are accounted for.</p>	<p>Essay fails to use valid sources, or does not appear to use any sources at all.</p> <p>Footnotes and/or bibliography is missing.</p>

Thinking	<p>Arguments are pertinent to the topic and exhibit an unusual sophistication in comparison to peers.</p> <p>Key arguments have been made—no major points have been left out.</p> <p>Key counterarguments have been considered and responded to, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Arguments are generally pertinent to the topic.</p> <p>Arguments are fairly logical, and reasonably supported in most cases.</p> <p>Most key arguments have been made, and a counterargument or two may have been proposed to help bolster author’s argument.</p>	<p>Arguments are not consistently pertinent, logical, or supported.</p> <p>Many key arguments have been left out or not been made.</p> <p>Author ignores pertinent counterarguments and simply piles statement onto statement.</p>	<p>Arguments are not pertinent, and essay lacks logic in its analysis.</p> <p>Key arguments have not been made.</p> <p>No consideration of counterarguments</p>
Interest Factor	<p>Language and style are appropriate to a formal essay reader.</p> <p>Introduction strongly grabs reader’s attention and eases them into the discussion at hand.</p> <p>There is nuance and subtlety to the paper.</p> <p>Main points are memorable, and reader becomes very engaged.</p>	<p>Language and style are appropriate.</p> <p>Author has included an introduction easing reader into the discussion at hand.</p> <p>There is some nuance and subtlety to the paper.</p> <p>Main points are clear, and reader becomes engaged.</p>	<p>Language and style fair, but problems with grammar, spelling, or usage are evident.</p> <p>Introduction is very weak or confused.</p> <p>The paper lacks nuance, and main points, while present, are not well made.</p>	<p>Language and style poor. Major and repeated problems with grammar, spelling, and usage, reflecting haste in proofreading and/or need to hone writing skills.</p> <p>Analysis lacking, and main points often not discernable.</p>