

ESSAY RUBRIC

Must be complete. Must be typed—12 point type, neutral font (Courier, Times New Roman, etc.). No ALL CAPS.

PLAGIARISM IS “DEATH.”

4

good **title**

five paragraphs indented

well-organized and logical for **strong** support (with **powerful** details)

strong paragraphs of *introduction* and *conclusion* (at least **five** sentences each)

a strong, relevant thesis at the end of the introductory paragraph

three body paragraphs (at least eleven sentences each) contain excellent evidence which strongly supports the thesis

three concrete details (at least two of which are **strongly embedded** quotations) in each body paragraph (**6 total okay**)

two sentences of commentary (explanation/extension) for each concrete detail

sources correctly cited

present tense

no first person or direct address

no repetition

perfect spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar

no fragments/run-ons

strong transitions

3

title

five paragraphs indented

well-organized and logical for **good** support (with **convincing** details)

strong paragraphs of *introduction* and *conclusion* (at least **five** sentences each)

a **good** thesis at the end of the introductory paragraph

three body paragraphs (at least eleven sentences each) contain **good** evidence which **solidly** supports the thesis

three concrete details (at least two of which are **well-embedded** quotations) in each body paragraph (**6 total okay**)

two sentences of commentary (explanation/extension) for each concrete detail

sources correctly cited

perhaps **one or two tense errors**

maybe 1 or 2 first person or direct address **errors**

maybe one repeat

maybe 1 or 2 fragments/run-ons

good spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar (**1-3 errors**)

good transitions

2

weak title

five paragraphs indented

organization is **just okay—not completely on topic**

okay *introduction* and *conclusion* (at least **five** sentences each)

a **mediocre** thesis in the introductory paragraph

three body paragraphs (at least eleven sentences each) contain **okay** evidence which **faintly** supports the thesis

three concrete details (at least two of which are quotations) in each body paragraph

two sentences of commentary (explanation/extension) for each concrete detail

sources cited

perhaps **5-8** tense errors

maybe 2-3 (first person or) direct address errors

some repeats

maybe 2-3 fragments/run-ons

spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar has **4-6 errors**

weak transitions

1

may have no title

not well organized—confusing and off topic—weak thesis

weak *introduction* and *conclusion*

paragraphs may not be indented

may be missing a body paragraph

body paragraphs may be missing concrete details and/or commentary

sources may not be cited

many first person or direct address **errors**

repetitious

more than 3 fragments/run-ons

spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar has **more than 6 errors**

few/no transitions