

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

each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence that reflects tangible benefits or damage to the writer

three concrete details (specific examples from the writer’s life) in each body paragraph

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

sources appropriately referenced **present tense** **no** 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

each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence that reflects tangible benefits or damage to the writer

three concrete details (specific examples from the writer’s life) in each body paragraph

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

sources appropriately referenced perhaps **one or two tense errors** **maybe 1 or 2** 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

at least one body paragraph begins with a topic sentence that reflects tangible benefits or damage to the writer

three concrete details (examples from the writer’s life) in each body paragraph

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

sources referenced perhaps **5-8** tense errors **maybe 2-3** 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** direct address **errors** **repetitious**

more than 3 fragments/run-ons spelling, punctuation, usage, grammar has **more than 6 errors** **few/no** transitions