

**Grading Rubric  
(30 Points)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Thesis</b> (9 points)	Clear, perceptive, and focused; leads to an interesting, incisive, creative argument; takes on interesting, complex ideas; thesis stated early on and governs the entire essay; sufficiently limited in scope.	9-7	
	Muddled or difficult to decipher; ordinary or uninteresting, not especially creative or insightful; disappears in portions of the essay; may lack focus, be too broad.	6-3	
	No thesis or a thesis that is merely descriptive, not the heart of an argument; vague, confusing, or plainly erroneous thesis.	3-0	
<b>Quality of Argument</b> (12 points)	Excellent analysis of appropriate evidence; insightful and fresh ideas; much more than summary or paraphrase; evidence supports thesis; the reader is enriched because the writer has presented something new and interesting. The argument invites complications and includes consideration of a counter-argument	12-9	
	At times insightful, but sometimes mere summary or missing analysis; connections are sometimes inconsistent; the reasoning may be solid, but routine; ambitious but only partially successful or one that achieves modest aims well. Few complications or only partially realized consideration of a counter-argument.	8-5	
	Mostly summary; interpretations and ideas are confusing or difficult to follow; routine ideas that do not show innovation or creative thought; analysis not adequately supported by evidence. No consideration of counter-argument.	4-0	
<b>Organization and Structure</b> (6 points)	Logical, progressive organization (the argument develops and moves forward, is more than a dull restatement of the thesis); the various points are linked together in a logical way; coherent, well-organized paragraphs.	6-5	
	Generally logical, but may be confusing in places (one or more big jumps or missing links); overly predictable and under-developed sequence of ideas; some disorganized paragraphs.	4-3	
	Confusing (several big jumps, missing links) or overly predictable (5-paragraph description); rambling; many disorganized paragraphs that are more description than argument.	3-0	
<b>Grammar and Style</b> (3 pts.)	Flawless grammar and style; clear and conversational yet sophisticated; stimulating, a pleasure to read; citations appropriately handled.	3	
	One or more noticeable errors in grammar and style; inconsistent or incorrect citations; lacks sophistication (may be weighed down by fancy diction meant to impress).	2	
	Numerous errors in grammar and style; no citations (if citations needed); generally unclear or hard to read; overly simplistic.	1-0	
		<b>Total out of 30</b>	