

PAPER RUBRIC

Grade

F

D

C

B

A

Criteria	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Focus on the Question	Difficult to tell what question the essay is supposed to be addressing.	Essay is on the right topic, but ignores the question.	Essay shows an awareness of the question, but occasionally strays from it.	Essay addresses the question throughout.	From the thesis statement to the conclusion, each paragraph directly relates to the question.
Thesis	No thesis statement	No thesis statement	Thesis statement is vague or not clearly related to the question nor to the argument of the essay.	Thesis is focused and related to the question	Thesis is well focused, relevant, and clearly stated
Support with facts/examples	Invalid or irrelevant generalizations, specific historical details are lacking or inaccurate.	Essay lacks specific detail and/or is riddled with inaccuracies.	Essay displays a general knowledge of the topic. Essay contains unsupported generalizations. Not all facts used to support generalizations are relevant or accurate.	Essay demonstrates a good command of the material, but a few of the important facts are missing, an occasional fact is not accurate.	Generalizations are supported with relevant, accurate, specific historical details
Accuracy and logic	Ideas and facts are randomly put together.	Generalizations are vague, often inaccurate, and not clearly related to each other.	Generalizations are sound, but occasionally too vague to be useful. Essay sometimes goes off on a tangent.	Generalizations are sound. The argument of the essay can easily be followed.	Generalizations are sound and show good insight. Paragraphs are logically organized around the thesis.
Clarity and Mechanics	Essay contains sentence fragments or run-on sentences, grammatical mistakes, misuse of words, many misspellings.	Essay contains sentence fragments or run-on sentences, grammatical mistakes, misuse of words, many misspellings	Occasional awkward sentence structure, misspellings, grammar and syntax mistakes.	SENTENCES ARE CORRECTLY FORMED, LANGUAGE IS CLEAR, PUNCTUATION, GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX ARE CORRECT WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS.	Sentences are skillfully constructed, language is varied and appropriate to the topic. Punctuation, grammar, and syntax are correct.