

Grading Rubric

<i>Category</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>General Comments</i>
Focus: Does the essay have a clear central thesis with a clear introduction providing a road map to the reader?	20	
Organization: Does the essay have a clear overall structure? Are arguments and evidence logically sequenced and organized hierarchically? Is each paragraph in the body of the essay organized around a main idea? Are connections drawn among the key points? Does the essay present a coherent defense of your thesis?	25	
Content & use of evidence: Does the introduction provide adequate background about the topic and the related controversies? Are your arguments well developed, with evidence from all the source materials, including class readings and discussions, personal observations and experience? Are counterarguments considered? Does the conclusion draw the essay to a close, highlighting the central points in your argument? Are sources properly cited?	30	
Expression: Are ideas and information articulated in clear, fluent prose?	15	
Mechanics: Is the essay free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors? Is the essay of the right length?	10	
TOTAL PTS	100	

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