

**FORMAL ESSAY RUBRIC: GENERAL**

	Content/CD	Content/CM	Organization/Thesis	Organization/Topic Sentences	Organization/General	Style/Word Choice	Style/Sentence Fluency	Conventions
<b>4: Distinguished</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Best CD consistently chosen, showing a deep understanding of topic</li> <li>*All CD provide sufficient background/context</li> <li>*All CD is accurately interpreted</li> <li>*Required number and type of chunk included</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are effective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CM consistently shows nuanced, sophisticated understanding of prompt and sources</li> <li>*CM is thorough and complete</li> <li>*CM clearly relates CD to TS</li> <li>*CM consistently anchored in CD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Thesis is clear, concise</li> <li>*Thesis clearly addresses the prompt</li> <li>*Thesis indicates a sophisticated approach/understanding of the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*All TSs are clear, concise</li> <li>*All TSs are arguable</li> <li>*All TSs are specific, not vague</li> <li>*All TSs directly support the thesis</li> <li>*TSs define distinct main ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CDs support TSs</li> <li>*CM stays on topic</li> <li>*Authentic transitions used where appropriate</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are present</li> <li>*Overall plan of essay is coherent and easy to follow</li> <li>*Essay does not stray from the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Strong, impactful WC evident throughout</li> <li>*Proper POV maintained</li> <li>*Proper level of formality maintained</li> <li>*Words used correctly</li> <li>*Appropriate voice/tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Syntax is consciously varied for effect</li> <li>*Sentences are clearly written</li> <li>*No fragments or run-ons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Few to no errors in punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or caps</li> <li>*Errors do not impact readability of essay</li> <li>*Citations are consistently correct</li> <li>*Works cited page contains no errors</li> <li>*MLA formatting is correct</li> </ul>
<b>3: Strong</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Best CD generally chosen</li> <li>*Some CD may need more background/context</li> <li>*All CD is accurately interpreted</li> <li>*Required number and type of chunk included</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are present and effective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CM generally shows nuanced, sophisticated understanding of prompt and sources</li> <li>*CM is usually thorough and complete</li> <li>*CM clearly relates CD to TS</li> <li>*CM consistently anchored in CD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Thesis is clear, concise</li> <li>*Thesis clearly addresses the prompt</li> <li>*Thesis addresses prompt in a more simplistic fashion than a 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*All TSs are clear, concise</li> <li>*All TSs are arguable</li> <li>*All TSs are specific, not vague</li> <li>*All TSs directly support the thesis</li> <li>*TSs define distinct main ideas</li> <li>*At times TSs lack the sophisticated approach shown by a 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CDs support TSs</li> <li>*CM stays on topic</li> <li>*Transitions are present but may not be authentic</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are present</li> <li>*Overall plan of essay is coherent and easy to follow but maybe be simplistic</li> <li>*Essay does not stray from the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Some strong WC evident</li> <li>*Proper POV maintained</li> <li>*Proper level of formality maintained</li> <li>*Almost all words used correctly</li> <li>*Appropriate voice/tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Some evidence of syntax being consciously varied for effect</li> <li>*Sentences are clearly written</li> <li>*No fragments or run-ons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Occasional errors in punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or caps</li> <li>*Errors do not impact readability of essay</li> <li>*Citations are generally correct</li> <li>*Works cited page may contain a few errors</li> <li>*MLA formatting is correct</li> </ul>
<b>2: Basic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Required number and type of chunk present though some CD may not be well chosen</li> <li>*Context/background is at times insufficient</li> <li>*Occasionally CD is misapplied or misinterpreted</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are not fully developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CM is present but lacks depth and sophistication</li> <li>*CM is at times unclear, illogical,</li> <li>*CM is at times not anchored in CD</li> <li>*CM generally lacks thoroughness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Thesis is present but may not be completely clear or concise</li> <li>*Essay may occasionally stray away from thesis</li> <li>*Thesis addresses prompt in a simplistic way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*TSs are present but some may lack clarity or precision</li> <li>*TSs support the thesis but may not be arguable</li> <li>*TSs may overlap and not define distinct ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Most CDs support TSs</li> <li>*CM usually stays on topic</li> <li>*Weak or missing transitions</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion are present</li> <li>*Overall plan of essay is difficult to discern</li> <li>*Essay may stray from the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*WC is plain, dull, imprecise</li> <li>*Proper POV usually maintained</li> <li>*Proper level of formality usually maintained</li> <li>*Words generally used correctly</li> <li>*Appropriate voice/tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Sentences are generally clear</li> <li>*Occasional fragments and/or run-ons</li> <li>*Sentences are basic; no attempt to vary syntax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Numerous errors in punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or caps</li> <li>*Errors impact readability of essay</li> <li>*Citations frequently contain errors</li> <li>*Works cited page contains errors</li> <li>*A few errors in MLA formatting present</li> </ul>
<b>1: Unsatisfactory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Not enough or wrong type of chunks</li> <li>*CD generally poorly chosen</li> <li>*CD frequently misunderstood or misapplied</li> <li>*CD generally does not provide background/context</li> <li>*Little effort in intro and conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CM is frequently missing</li> <li>*CM is frequently confusing, unclear</li> <li>*CM shows a lack of understanding of prompt and/or sources</li> <li>*CM lacks effort/thoroughness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*No thesis</li> <li>*Thesis is present but does not address prompt</li> <li>*Thesis is confusing, unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*TSs missing</li> <li>*TSs may not support the thesis</li> <li>*TSs are not arguable or are unclear, confusing</li> <li>*TSs do not clearly define main idea of the paragraphs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*CD often does not relate to TS</li> <li>*CM is frequently off topic</li> <li>*Few or no transitions</li> <li>*No organizational plan is apparent</li> <li>*Intro and conclusion may be missing</li> <li>*Essay strays from the thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Words are frequently misused</li> <li>*Proper POV often not maintained</li> <li>*Proper level of formality often not maintained</li> <li>*Inappropriate voice/tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Many confusing, unclear, or awkward sentences</li> <li>*Run-ons and fragments are common</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Numerous errors in punctuation, spelling, usage, and/or caps</li> <li>*Errors make essay very difficult to read and understand</li> <li>*Citations are frequently missing or contain numerous errors</li> <li>*Works cited page contains many errors</li> <li>*Errors in MLA formatting common</li> </ul>