

## Rating Scale for Essays

According to the University Catalog, "No expository writing assignment will receive a grade of C or above unless it has the following: 1) A clear and readily identifiable thesis statement, 2) A clear and coherent overall structure, 3) Paragraphs with topic sentence and adequate development, 4) Standard but varied sentence structure and expression; and 5) Standard usage, punctuation and spelling."

Your essays are worth 100 points; therefore, each category will be worth 20 points.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Thesis</b>  Points _____	Essay contains a clear, specific thesis that goes beyond restating the topic to demonstrate original thought.	Essay contains a clear, specific thesis that clearly addresses the topic and contains your personal point of view on the topic.	Thesis of essay is too general or essay has no clear thesis at all.
<b>Structure/ Organization</b>  Points _____	Essay is well-organized with well-developed paragraphs and topic sentences, and with smooth transitions. The paper has a clearly identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion. Each section is well developed and complete. Conclusion restates main point appropriately and eloquently.	Essay is well-organized with well-developed paragraphs and topic sentences. The paper might have somewhat weak transitions and/or its introduction, body, and conclusions might need additional development. Conclusion restates main point, but is understated or overstated.	Essay contains underdeveloped paragraphs and weak or unclear topic sentences. Essay contains weak transitions. Essay lacks organization and establishes no clear links between paragraphs. Essay fails to link evidence to thesis. Conclusion is weak and unrelated to thesis.
<b>Use of Evidence</b>  Points _____	Essay uses a wide variety of evidence imaginatively and/or appropriately, putting topic into effective context and drawing reasonable conclusions from it. The essay has proper citations where information is taken from historical sources.	Essay contains adequate evidence, but it could be put into more effective context. Some conclusions are unexplained or unjustified. Essay has citations where appropriate.	Essay contains some detail and evidence, but not enough to adequately prove thesis. Essay tends toward summary of evidence rather than an interpretation of it. Essay lacks appropriate citations.
<b>General Content</b>	Essay provides ample, well chosen, and factually correct connections and relationships between events and ideas; it makes correct comparisons and shows clear understanding of main ideas with no	Essay provides correct connections and relationships between events and ideas; it makes correct comparisons and shows clear understanding of main ideas. It might contain some factual errors	Essay shows some connections and relationships, it makes some comparisons and shows understanding of general ideas, but contains many factual errors or misinterpretations of

Points _____	factual errors or misinterpretations. Essay offers original analysis.	or misinterpretations of meaning.	meaning.
<b>English Usage</b>  Points _____	Standard and varied sentence structure. Use of subordinated phrases and clauses. Correct usage, punctuation, and spelling	Standard sentence structure. Minor errors in usage, punctuation, and spelling.	Incomplete sentences. Faulty sentence structure. Major errors in spelling, punctuation, and usage.

TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_