

Free Response Essay Rubric

Name _____

Grading scale: 9 = 95% 8 = 90% 7 = 85% 6 = 80% 5 = 75% 4 = 70% 3 = 65% 2 = 60% 1 = 50%

Characteristic	Score 8-9	Score 5-6	Score 2-4	Score 0-1
Thesis	Clear, well developed, complex thesis	Contains a clear, developed thesis	Thesis may be confused or underdeveloped	Confusing or lacks a clear thesis related to the topic
Understanding of the Question	Understands complexity of the question; deals with all parts of the question in depth	Limited or lack of understanding of complexity; may deal with one part of the question in some depth, or in a more general way	Ignores complexity; may deal with one part of the question, or all elements of the question in a superficial way	May simply paraphrase or restate the question
Analysis	Provides effective analysis of the question; thoroughly addresses counter arguments	Provides analysis but may not devote equal weight to all parts of the questions; addresses counter arguments	Weak or inappropriate analysis; superficial; fails to address counter-arguments	Little of no analysis; describes rather than analyze
Supportive Information / Evidence	Supports thesis with appropriate, substantial, relevant information / evidence	Supports thesis with appropriate factual information / evidence but not substantial	Lacks supporting information, or information given is minimal but appropriate	Incompetent, inappropriate responses; off topic or minimal information
Grammar and Structure	May contain insignificant errors	May contain minor errors that do not detract from overall essay	May contain major errors	Contains many major or minor errors
Organization and Writing Style	Well organized and well written – logical flow and obvious agreement between introduction and conclusion	Clearly organized and written, but not exceptional; logical flow but loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Weak organization and writing; weak structure; understandable flow and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Disorganized and poorly written; incoherent; mismatched introduction and conclusion or missing introduction / conclusion

___ Strong use of evidence ___ Vague statements or generalizations not supported by evidence ___ Strong conclusion ___ Weak / No conclusion

___ Strong topic sentences ___ Weak topic sentences ___ No “I” statements ___ Strong linking sentences ___ Weak / No linking sentences

___ Does not use “flowery” or colloquial ___ Appropriate verb tense (usually “past”) ___ Does not connect issues to “today” Other: _____

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