

### Essay rubric

A good essay is a convincing essay. It gives a clear answer to the question right up front and then gives reasons why that answer is true. The first paragraph, also called the thesis paragraph, needs to contain both the answer and the main points that show why the answer is true. After the thesis paragraph come at least three main body paragraphs, each of which introduces one of the main points in a topic sentence that relates back to the thesis in terms of cause and effect. The remainder of each paragraph then presents and analyzes your evidence. It's not enough to list facts; you also have to explain how they prove your point. The final paragraph is your conclusion. Here you quickly summarize your answer to the question and then go one step further to tell me, "So what?" If your answer is true, what does that explain? If this one thing is true, what else is true?

MC: ___ =	<b>Thesis paragraph</b>	<b>Body paragraphs</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> b.p.                      2 <sup>nd</sup> b.p.                      3 <sup>rd</sup> b.p.			<b>Style matters</b>
A	<p>Effective, full-sentence counter-argument gives an alternative A/Q</p> <p>Thesis frames the question and answers it clearly [more → less].</p> <p>Three clear points of proof, each its own sentence.</p>	<p><u>Topic sentence:</u></p> <p>a. a reason why the answer is true?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+                      -                      +                      -                      +                      -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p> <p>b. a clear cause-effect link?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p>			<p>Conclusion explains "So what?"</p> <p>Handwriting easily legible; format followed</p>
B	<p>Counter-argument is hard to find or follow.</p> <p>Thesis gives a simplistic answer [less → more].</p> <p>Points of proof are there, but unclear or in list form.</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u></p> <p>a. accurate (no major errors of fact)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p> <p>b. specific?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p>			<p>Conclusion attempts to explain "So what?"</p> <p>Minor problems with handwriting and format.</p>
C	<p>Attempt at a counter-argument.</p> <p>Question is restated but not answered.</p> <p>Some major points of proof are missing.</p>	<p><u>Analysis:</u></p> <p>a. clear cause/effect links?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p> <p>b. distinction between proximate/ultimate?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆————◆    ◆————◆    ◆————◆</p>			<p>Conclusion merely restates the thesis.</p> <p>Major problems with handwriting or format.</p>
D	<p>No counter-argument.</p> <p>A few facts but no answer to the question.</p> <p>Most points of proof missing.</p>	<p><u>Other comments:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used a doc.?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used a maxim?</p>			<p>No conclusion.</p>