

Grading Rubric

Criteria	A	B	C	D	F
Quality of thesis and argumentation 18	Clearly states a creative, arguable thesis. Each paragraph clearly and logically supports the argument.	Has an arguable and creative claim, though it may not be clear. Most paragraphs support the thesis and are clearly written, but may overlook important elements to make a persuasive case.	No argument. 1 or 2 weak claims. Some irrelevant or confusing statements. Does not contain enough facts, statistics, or quotations to make a convincing case.	No argument. A number of irrelevant or confusing statements. Uses a few facts, statistics or quotations, but may not use them appropriately or may not understand them.	No argument. Many irrelevant or confusing statements. Few or no facts, statistics or quotations, or those that appear are used inappropriately or misunderstood.
Use of facts and evidence 17	Each paragraph includes relevant facts, statistics, quotations or paraphrasing. Strong historical context.	1 or 2 paragraphs are missing facts, statistics, quotations or paraphrasing that could help support the argument. Good historical context.	Several paragraphs are missing facts, statistics, quotations or paraphrasing that could help support the argument. Some sense of historical context.	Few paragraphs contain facts, statistics, quotations or paraphrasing that could help support the argument. Little sense of historical context.	Paper contains so few facts, statistics, quotations or paraphrasing that the argument is not plausible. No sense of historical context.
Use of primary sources 15	Each paragraph other than intro and conclusion has at least 1 primary source supporting the claim; when appropriate, each draws on several sources.	Most paragraphs in the body of the essay have at least 1 primary source. Many contain more than 1 when appropriate.	Many paragraphs in the body of the essay have at least 1 primary source. A few contain more than 1 source.	A few paragraphs in the body of the essay cite at least 1 primary source.	Few or no paragraphs in the the essay cite primary sources.

Accuracy 15	All supporting facts and quotations appear accurately.	Almost all supporting facts and quotations appear accurately.	Most supporting facts and quotations appear accurately.	Many supporting facts and quotations are inaccurate.	Most supporting facts and quotations are inaccurate.
Organization 15	Compelling introduction, informative middle and strong conclusion.	Clear introduction, middle and end, but could be more compelling.	Organized but sometimes gets off topic.	Writing disorganized; reader has to work to understand what the writer is saying.	Writing is very disorganized; reader has a hard time understanding the ideas the writer is trying to say.
Grammar, spelling, punctuation, usage 10	No errors.	1 or 2 errors.	A few errors that interrupt flow.	Writer makes enough errors to distract the reader.	Writer makes so many errors that the work is difficult to read.
Fluency 7	Every paragraph has sentences that vary in length. Sentences always make the point in as few words as possible. Writer uses vivid language with accurate wording.	Almost all paragraphs have sentences that vary in length. Vivid language, but occasionally words are used inaccurately or seem overdone. Mostly concise.	Some sentences vary in length. Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but writing lacks variety, punch or flair. Some use of jargon or clichés. Often wordy.	A few sentences vary in length. Limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or accurately. Uses jargon or clichés. Very wordy and/or sometimes goes on tangents.	Sentences do not vary in length. Writer frequently uses words incorrectly, overuses jargon or clichés. Extremely wordy and/or often goes on tangents.
Documentation and formatting 3	Flawless documentation and formatting in quotations, citations, and pagination.	Fewer than 3 errors in formatting quotations, citations, or pagination.	Several errors in formatting, quotations, citations, or pagination.	Many errors in formatting, quotations, citations, or pagination.	Excessive errors in formatting, quotations, citations, or pagination.