

Writing Grading Rubric

Thesis & Motive	-	→	+
The major claim of the essay is complex and even unexpected			
It is stated clearly at the outset and evolves throughout the paper.			
Introduction has a clear motive that outlines the stakes of the argument			
Introduction demonstrates a meaningful context for the author's claims.			
The thesis insightfully responds to a true question, tension or problem.			

Evidence & Analysis	-	→	+
The rationale for using certain evidence is clear			
Evidence is insightfully explored, and may even be drawn from nuanced, unexpected places.			
The argument is sufficiently complex to require an explanation of how the evidence supports the essay's claims			
Evidence is used to develop new claims.			
Essay considers evidence that may challenge and complicate the claims and stakes of the essay.			

Structure	-	→	+
Ideas develop over the course of the essay			
Foundations established early on push the argument toward a more complex conclusion.			
Argumentation is logically structured and builds upon one another			
The structure facilitates suspense / is engaging.			

Style	-	→	+
Writing is clear and concise			
Writing is sophisticated, demonstrating sentence variety and appropriate vocabulary.			
The essay is a pleasure to read.			

Revision	-	→	+
Essay does not simply address the comments of the instructor and peer reviewers, but altogether transforms its ideas or use of evidence from the draft.			
It is meticulously proofread.			

Comments: