

Essay 1 Rubric	Off-task (0%)	Weak (60%)	Average (70%)	Strong (80%)	Excellent (100%)
<p>Format (10%) The essay must follow MLA formatting standards.</p>	The essay does not follow MLA formatting.	There are numerous problems with MLA formatting	There are 2-3 problems with MLA formatting.	There is one problem with the MLA formatting.	The MLA formatting is excellent.
<p>Focus/Unity (20%) The essay needs to have a clear and concise introduction, thesis statement, essay map, and topic sentences that truly support each other. The thesis should be a solid opinion and not an announcement, and the essay map should answer “why” in response to the thesis. The topic sentences should match the essay map. The paragraph should stay focused and support the topic sentence. In addition, the essay must follow the assignment.</p>	The essay lacks a main idea and an essay map. There are also several problems with the unity of the essay.	The essay’s main idea is weak or difficult to find. The rest of the essay does not blend well with the main idea and/or the essay map.	The main idea is confusing or the rest of the essay does not support the main idea.	The main idea is apparent and strong; however, there are points that do not seem relevant to that main point.	The main idea is strong and original.
<p>Development (30%) Sufficient examples and quotes are necessary to clearly support the thesis (i.e. explain why the writer agrees and/or disagrees). Supporting examples, quotations, the thesis, and the original author's main points must connect to each other.</p>	Specific details are lacking and do not support the main idea.	Details are weak and do not support the main idea.	The details are not specific and do not fully support the main idea.	The main idea is supported with specific details, but there are some holes.	The main idea is thoroughly supported with specific details.
<p>Organization (20%) The introduction needs to capture the reader's interest, and the writing must develop clearly, smoothly, and logically from the main point. Understanding of the readers' expectations is demonstrated. Individual paragraphs must have clear focus, unity, and coherence. A clear distinction between the summary and response is necessary.</p>	The organization does not make sense for the topic and is confusing.	The organization is weak and lacks a clear beginning, middle, and end.	The organization is confusing in spots; the introduction and conclusion need more information.	The organization is strong within the essay, but the beginning and ending lack needed discussion.	The organization is excellent.

<p>Style (10%) The writing must follow the conventions of written English (correct word usage, appropriate voice and tone, sentence variety, and clear, concise sentences).The writing must follow Formal Standard English (with the exception of first person and contractions)and demonstrate a balance of voice, subject, purpose, genre, cultural context, and a sense of audience.</p>	<p>Sentences are confusing and there are several grammatical and mechanical errors. The style and tone do not meet audience expectations.</p>	<p>The essay contains distracting grammatical and mechanical errors, and the style and tone do not meet audience expectations.</p>	<p>The essay contains some grammatical and mechanical errors, and the style and tone minimally meet audience expectations.</p>	<p>There are few distracting errors and the style and tone meet audience expectations.</p>	<p>There are no distracting errors and the style and tone exceed audience expectations.</p>
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