

Essay 2 Rubric	Off-task (0%)	Weak (60%)	Average (70%)	Strong (80%)	Excellent (100%)
Format (10%) The essay must follow MLA formatting standards.	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.
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.	A clear agree and/or disagree thesis is not apparent and the essay is off topic and loses focus.	The thesis is weak and the essay loses focus in places throughout the essay.	An agree/disagree thesis is evident, but focus may be fuzzy or not related clearly to the purpose.	The essay focuses on the main idea and clearly relates to the purpose. The ideas are clear and logical.	The focus is sharp and the agree/disagree thesis is excellent. The ideas presented in the essay clearly relate to the purpose. The ideas are original, logical, and thought-provoking.
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.	The development is severely lacking or unapparent. The essay may also not follow instructions.	The supporting example, details, and data are thin or missing altogether or not relevant to the main idea.	The ideas are clear. Supporting examples, details, and data are thin in spots and/or not clearly relevant to the main idea.	Supporting examples, details, and data are ample and relevant to the main idea. Connections are made between ideas and examples although there may be some holes.	Supporting examples, details, and data are rich and relevant to the main idea. Connections between idea and example are clearly made.
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.	The organization is confusing and the essay is difficult to understand. The essay may also not follow instructions.	The introduction sets up the wrong expectations. The writing makes several unconnected main points. The coherence is rough, and individual paragraphs lack basic focus, unity, and coherence.	The introduction sets the main idea, and the writing develops from the main point. The coherence or smoothness of ideas have some rough spots. Individual paragraphs usually have basic focus, unity, and coherence.	The introduction captures the reader's interest, and the writing develops clearly from the main point. Coherence or smooth flow is sustained with transitions, paragraph hooks, and audience cues. The reader's expectations are set and then met. Individual paragraphs have basic focus, unity, and coherence.	The introduction captures the reader's interest, and the writing develops clearly, smoothly, and logically from the main point. The writing is coherent and smooth, sustained with transitions, paragraph hooks, and audience cues. The reader's expectations are set and then clearly met.

					Individual paragraphs have clear focus, unity, and coherence.
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.	There are several errors that make the sentence extremely difficult to understand. The essay could be a draft and shows little or no shaping, drafting, or revising.	The sentences are confusing to intended audience. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have distracting errors that obscure meaning.	The sentences are clear and easily read by intended audience but the writing lacks voice. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have some distracting errors, but the meaning is still clear for the most part.	The sentences are confusing to intended audience. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have distracting errors that obscure meaning.	Sentences reveal and sustain appropriate voice and tone. Good sentence variety. Sentences are clear, concise, and easily read by intended audience. Punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have no distracting errors.
Research (10%) The in-text citations and Works Cited page must follow MLA formatting and style. The quotations and ideas of the original piece must be introduced and presented in context of the student's original ideas. Floating quotes (without information) must be avoided.	The essay is plagiarized or does not contain any research.	The research is not apparent or does not relate to the thesis or main supporting points. The research may also lack context and/or introductions.	The research minimally supports the main idea and the in-text citations and/or Works Cited page has several errors. There are some floating quotes, but most quotes are supported within the context of the original essay.	The in-text citations and Works Cited page follow MLA formatting and style with few errors. Quotations and ideas of the original piece mostly introduce and present the original context and connect with the student's original ideas.	The in-text citations and Works Cited page follow MLA formatting and style. Quotations and ideas of the original piece are introduced and presented in context with the student's original ideas.