

Essay Rubric				
Criteria	Advanced (4 pts.)	Proficient (3 pts.)	Basic (2 pts.)	Below Basic (1 pt.)
The Claim/Argument	You make a claim/argument and explain why it is controversial/ significant/ interesting.	You make a claim/argument but you don't explain why it is controversial/ significant/ interesting.	Your claim/argument is buried, confused or unclear.	You do not have an argument or claim
Reasons in Support of Claim	You give clear and accurate reasons in support of your claim/argument .	You give reasons in support of your claim/argument. But you may overlook important reasons.	You give 1 or 2 weak reasons that don't support your claim/argument and/or irrelevant or confusing reasons.	You do not give convincing reasons in support of your claim/argument
Focus	You show a clear understanding of what information was required, and who your audience is. You write about one clear topic, and gave many details to support your topic.	You show an understanding of what information was required, and who your audience is. You write about one clear topic, and included details in most of your writing.	You show a partial understanding of what information was required, and who your audience is. You have a topic, but some of the details do not support this topic clearly	You do not show an understanding if what information was required, and who your audience is. A specific topic is unclear and details are not clear.
Content	You use plenty of details to support your topic. You show a clear understanding of the purpose for writing this piece, and you clearly understand the information	You give the appropriate amount of details to support your topic. You show a good understanding of the purpose for writing this piece, and you understand the information	You give some details to support your topic. You do not demonstrate a strong understanding of the purpose for writing this piece, and you may not fully understand the information written.	You give very few details to support your topic. You do not demonstrate understanding of the purpose for writing this piece, and you do not show understanding of the information written.
Organization	Your writing is very organized. You use transitions well, and the order of your information makes good sense. This paper is easy to read and understand!	Your writing is organized well. Most of your transitions are used correctly, and your order of information does make sense. This paper can be read and understood with very few problems	Your writing is not very organized. Some of your transitions may be used correctly, but overall the errors make it difficult to understand.	Your transitions are not present, or not used correctly. The information is not organized well. This paper is unclear and difficult to understand.
Voice and Tone	It sounds like you care about your argument. You show how you think and feel about it.	Your tone is OK but your paper could have been written by anyone. I need to tell more about how I think and feel.	Your writing is bland or pretentious. There is either no hint of a real person in it or it sounds like I'm a fake.	Your writing is too formal or too informal. It sounds like I don't like the topic of the essay.
Style	You demonstrate an excellent use of language and your sentence structure. You clearly understand how informational pieces are written, and your tone is clear.	You show good control of language and sentence structure. Your writing has many parts that resemble 5 paragraph essays, and your tone is clear.	You use of language and sentence structure makes it difficult to clearly identify tone. You demonstrate some knowledge of the structure of an essay.	You demonstrate very little control of language and sentence structure, which makes it difficult for the reader. You show little understanding of the structure of an essay.
Conventions	You use a variety of sentence structures. You have very few errors in grammar, usage,	You use a variety of sentence structures. You have some errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and	You do not use a variety of sentence structures, and some sentences may be fragments, and	Many sentences are awkward or fragments. . There are many grammar, usage, spelling and

Conventions	You use a variety of sentence structures. You have very few errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation. The errors that are there do not make the writing unclear.	You use a variety of sentence structures. You have some errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation. A few of these errors may make parts of the writing unclear.	You do not use a variety of sentence structures, and some sentences may be fragments, and without punctuation. There are many grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation issues.	Many sentences are awkward or fragments. . There are many grammar, usage, spelling and punctuation issues.
Citation	All non-common knowledge statements and information are properly cited using the MLA style.	Most non-common knowledge statements and information are properly cited using the MLA style.	Some non-common knowledge statements and information are properly cited using the MLA style.	No/Few non-common knowledge statements and information are properly cited using the MLA style.
Accuracy	All dates, names, and events are historically accurate	Most dates, names, and events are historically accurate	Some dates, names, and events are historically accurate	No/Few dates, names, and events are historically accurate