

ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC

A EXCELLENT

- Excellent concrete detail; correct and skillful use of transitions and lead-ins
- Insightful commentary
- Finds connections
- Organization is clear and logical
- Very few, if any, mechanical errors
- Powerful vocabulary
- Excellent sentence variety
- Repeats little or not at all

B GOOD

- Good concrete detail; correct use of transitions and lead-ins
- Good commentary
- Organization is clear
- Some mechanical errors may be present
- Good vocabulary
- Above-average sentence variety
- Repeats little or not at all

C ADEQUATE

- Follows format (ratio, word counts, sentence layout—if required)
- Acceptable, but generic, concrete detail
- Obvious, superficial, irrelevant, or generic commentary
- Organization is present
- Some mechanical errors may be present
- Average vocabulary and/or odd word choice
- Limited sentence variety
- Repeats are a problem

D DEMONSTRATES PROBLEMS

- Does not follow the format (ratio, word counts, sentence layout—if required)
- Problematic concrete detail (weak, inaccurate, MLA citation); missing transitions and lead-ins
- Problematic commentary (weak, plot summary/restatement, does not fit)
- Lacks cohesion
- Full of filler
- Organization is unclear, flawed, or illogical
- Mechanical errors detract from content
- Simple vocabulary; odd word choice; wrong word choice; slang; odd phrasing
- Little sentence variety
- Repeats are a problem
- Uses No-No words (you, your, yours, would, should, could, may, might, I me, my) in a literature paper

F FAILS TO MEET STANDARDS

- Off topic
- No thesis