

Rubric for Essay: High School

Criteria	1	2	3	4	Score
Focus/ Main Point	The essay poorly addresses topic and includes irrelevant ideas	The essay is focused on topic and includes few loosely related ideas	The essay is focused on the topic and includes relevant ideas	The essay is focused, purposeful, and reflects clear insight and ideas	
Support	Provides little or no support for the main point	Supports main point with some underdeveloped reasons and/or examples	Supports main point with developed reasons and/or examples	Persuasively supports main point with well-developed reasons and/or examples	
Organization & Format (<i>Paragraphs, Transitions</i>)	Little or no organization of ideas to build an argument	Some organization of ideas to build an argument	Organizes ideas to build an argument	Effectively organizes ideas to build a logical, coherent argument	
Language Use, Style & Conventions (<i>Sentence structure, word choice, grammar, spelling, punctuation</i>)	Little or no use of elements of style Many errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, makes reader's comprehension difficult	Some use of elements of style Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Appropriate use of elements of style Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation with few errors	Effective and creative use of elements of style to enhance meaning Uses correct grammar, spelling, punctuation throughout with very few errors	
Originality (<i>Expression of the theme in a creative way</i>)	No experimentation nor enhancement of concepts No adherence to the theme	Very little experimentation to enhance concepts Does not exhibit creativity	Sufficient experimentation with language and usage to enhance concepts Applies basic creative skills to relay ideas	Distinctive experimentation with language and usage to enhance concepts Applies higher order thinking and creative skills to relay complex ideas	