

Composition Essay Rubric

For (author of paper):	From (evaluator):
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How to: Check the appropriate rubric boxes and provide explanations below of the ratings.

Using the information: For areas where a writer receives “needs work” or “adequate,” review that area in the Rhetoric associated with that topic (link below) and use the advice when revising.

Criteria	needs work	adequate	good	excellent
Assignment Fulfillment Does the essay respond to all parts of the assignment and effectively fulfill all the requirements? Is the essay an analysis of/argument about the text(s)? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/3Papertopics.htm				
Thesis/Controlling Idea Is the thesis a controlling idea for the essay? Is it clear and arguable? Does it have a clear “so what?” stating a larger significance? Is the thesis a response to and an analysis of the text(s)? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/7Thesis.htm				
Organization/Coherence/Focus Is the introduction quick to capture reader interest and strongly orient the reader? Is there a logical order of ideas with clear transitions? Are there strong topic sentences? Does the writer stay on topic within each paragraph? Does the conclusion lead to larger implications and/or significance? Is the overall essay unified around one clear argument? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/9Paragraphs.htm http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/8Introductions-Conclusions.htm				
Development/Support Are the arguments fair, reasonable, and logical? Is the evidence in the body paragraphs consistently focused on a clear supporting point? Are body paragraphs fully developed, insightful, and convincing? Is there a balance of textual support and the student’s own analysis? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/9Paragraphs.htm				
Use of Text Are relevant quotes, paraphrases and concepts from the text skillfully integrated to support and illustrate ideas? Do they demonstrate sophisticated use of the text(s)? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/10IntegratingSources.htm				
MLA Formatting and Documentation Skills Has MLA format been used including title page and page numbers? Are the sources cited within the essay and in the Works Cited done correctly according to MLA format? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/5MLA.htm				
Sentence Style Do the sentences flow well? Does the writer join sentences to show relationships between ideas? Is there sentence variety? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/13Style.htm				
Grammar Is the essay proofread paying attention to grammar, punctuation, and spelling? http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skyenglish/14Grammar.htm	4 or more errors/page	3 or fewer errors/page	2 or fewer errors/page	1 or fewer errors/page

Comments: further explanations behind the scoring choices along with revision advice
(for more commenting space, insert electronically or attach additional page)

For instructor Use—Holistic Essay Grade:
