

SAMPLE HOLISTIC RUBRIC FOR ESSAYS

Grade	Score	Criteria
A (90---		The "A" argument essay is exceptional in every way. The essay is well organized and all claims are supported. It begins with a solid introduction that contains a clear thesis, is followed by body paragraphs that contain clear topic sentences with clear and detailed support, and ends with an effective conclusion. Content is thorough and lacking in no area. There are no (or few) errors in tone, format, mechanics, grammar, and content.
100)		
B (80---		The "B" essay is above adequate in most areas. In the areas where it is not above adequate, it is still entirely acceptable. The majority of the essay is clear, focused, and well detailed, but there may be a few areas requiring further development. While it may contain a few errors with tone, mechanics, grammar, and/or content, these errors are not egregious enough to detract from the overall point being made.
89)	_____	
C (70---		The "C" essay is adequate in most areas, but exceptional in none. The thesis is clear although probably lacking in both control and command. Organization may be a slight problem but can be fixed. The paragraphs provide support but are generally underdeveloped. There may be multiple errors in tone, format, mechanics, grammar, and content, but these errors do not, for the most part, detract from the overall writing.
79)	_____	
D (60---		The "D" essay is lacking in a majority of areas. It is generally unorganized and unfocused. The thesis is neither clear nor controls the entire essay. Most of the essay is underdeveloped. There are frequent errors in tone, format, mechanics, grammar, and/or content that distract from the content being provided. Its only saving grace is that, despite all of the errors, there appears to be a legitimate effort put forth by the writer.
69)		
F (0---		The "F" essay generally needs little explanation. There are significant problems throughout. The thesis is often lacking, and the argument, if there is one, wanders and is unorganized. The essay shows no understanding of basic essay structure, and there are significant errors in tone, format, mechanics, grammar, and/or content. The effort on the part of the writer is questionable, at best.
59)	_____	

Comments: