

ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC: Highest possible score = 24 points Passing = 17 points (70%) and higher.					
	NEVER: 0	SELDOM: 1	SOMETIMES: 2	USUALLY: 3	ALWAYS: 4
APA CITATIONS - If there is a quotation, it begins by introducing the speaker, has quotation marks, then ends with the year and page number or ¶ number in parentheses, and a period at the very end. - If there is a paraphrase, it ends with the author's last name only and the year of publication, in parentheses, followed by a period. - These citations are typed using the correct format, with the spaces and punctuation in the right place, and items correctly capitalized. - All that needs to be cited is cited (including on references page).	0	1	2	3	4
ORGANIZATION - Each ¶ sticks to its topic, with no misplaced facts that belong in a different ¶. - The ¶s are in the order prompted by the assignment and do what the assignment said to do. - If the introduction lists the subtopics, then the topics of the ¶s are in the same order that they were in the introduction.	0	1	2	3	4
WORDING: Grammar, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, clarity, lack of typos.	0	1	2	3	4
TONE Vocabulary and sentence structures sound formal/businesslike/professional, not casual/chatty/conversational.	0	1	2	3	4
CONTENT - Meaningful, important facts were chosen. - The paper avoids stating the obvious or including information that most people would already know. - There is enough evidence to support the thesis statement. - The paper is about the right number of words. - The facts relate to the thesis statement specifically, not merely to the topic in general. - The writer sticks to explaining the most important facts instead of getting hung up overexplaining minor details.	0	1	2	3	4
CREDIBILITY - Trustworthy sources with credible experts are used. - No wikis, personal blogs, advertisements, or social-media posts were used. - Note that if there are sentences or passages that don't have an APA citation, these are NOT credible, because for all the reader knows, the writer could simply have made them up.	0	1	2	3	4
The PDF of the essay was not submitted on time: 30% off	-7				
TITLE PAGE: The page number is in the upper right corner and the title centered in bold about a quarter of the way down the page. The title has the correct words capitalized. Under the title of the essay, the following information is centered on the page and double-spaced: student's name, college name, course #, Dr. V. Morrison, and the due date of the final paper. All are in Times New Roman 11 or 12-pt font. The page looks like the title page in the handouts and in the model essay. If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
INTRODUCTION: Is the thesis statement written exactly as assigned, with no grammatical errors or typos? Does the writer give a cited fact showing why the topic/thesis is important? Did the writer avoid unnecessary filler like opinions, overgeneralizations, or vague statements that don't teach the reader anything new? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
BODY format: Does each body ¶, including the 2nd ¶, begin with a sentence that contains both a transition phrase and an indication of what the ¶ will be about? Are there at least two sentences in each ¶? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
BODY content: Did the writer avoid inserting their own opinion into the ¶s, for example, uncited statements they made up themselves instead getting facts from research sources? Did the writer avoid opinions unsupported by research, broad overgeneralizations, or vague statements that don't teach the reader anything new? Did the writer avoid unnecessary filler that the reader doesn't really need to know in order to understand the topic? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
CONCLUSION Requirements: Does the ¶ start with a sentence containing a transition phrase that alerts the reader that this is the conclusion? Is the thesis statement repeated in different words? Is there a reminder of the reason why the reader should care about the topic? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
CONCLUSION Content: Did the writer avoid adding new info that wasn't covered in the paper? Did the writer avoid retelling the whole paper over again? Is the ¶ free from opinions/filler? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
REFERENCES Sources: Do the authors' last names in the parenthetical citations match what is given in the last-name spaces of the references page? Are there at least four sources? Did the writer avoid using personal blogs, social-media posts, ads or wikis? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
REFERENCES Format: Is the references list on its own separate page(s)? Is the word References at the top? Are ALL the words in black? Does the list use hanging indentation? Is the author's last name for each source the first part of each entry (the part that sticks out with hanging indentation)? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				
OVERALL Format: Are there one-inch margins on all pages? Is the font Times New Roman on all pages? Is it 11 or 12-point on all pages? Is each ¶ indented one half inch with no lines skipped between ¶s? Are all of the words in black ink, even links on the references page? Does every page of the essay have the Times New Roman page number at the top right? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1				

OVERALL Address: Does the paper avoid using I me we us you our ours mine my your yours myself yourself yourselves ourselves AND avoid addressing the reader directly by asking a question AND avoid addressing the reader by directly telling the reader to do something? If not, one point will be deducted.	-1
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