**Research Essay Grading and Assessment Rubric** Name Click here to enter text.

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| **Introduction & Thesis**(main point):20 points | **The ideal essay makes a point that is clearly stated, arguable, and important.** * The thesis is clearly stated in the introduction.
* Introductory comments describe importance of the topic.
* Sub-points to be addressed are identified.
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| Meets the ideal well | 18-20 |
| Meets the ideal | 16-17 |
| Aspects of the ideal are insufficient | 14-15 |
| Aspects of the ideal are poor | 12-13 |
| Does not meet collegiate standards | 0-11 |

 | Click here to enter text. |
| **Organization**20 points | **The ideal essay builds on the introduction, pulls the reader along, demonstrates thoughtful argumentation, and evolves into a mature synthesis in the conclusion.** * The body of the essay supports the thesis with evidence, delivered in a logical progression.
* Transitions move the reader smoothly and effectively.
* Paragraphs are coherent, unified, and fully developed.
* Attention is given to proportion and emphasis.
* A conclusion restates the thesis, incorporating the evidence in a densely written summary.
* The paper fulfills the required length.
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| **Content:**20 points | **The ideal essay uses specific, concrete, and relevant detail to support the thesis.** * Strategic and thoughtful concepts demonstrate a complex understanding of the topic.
* This may be in the form of description, stories, examples, statistics, paraphrases, or summaries of research material, and/or quotes.
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| Does not meet collegiate standards | 0-11 |

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| **Use of sources:**20 points | **The ideal essay integrates scholarly content in a matrix of the student’s own ideas and words.*** Good collegiate resources are selected
	+ Author identified (beyond editor)
	+ Peer-reviewed or edited resource
* Research material is paraphrased and summarized correctly.
* Direct quotes are used strategically but sparingly.
* The boundaries between the student’s writing and scholarly sources are clearly identified by proper citation.
* The required number/type of sources are incorporated.
* Citation is thorough, using a works cited/bibliography page.
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| **Style:**10 points | **The ideal essay is written in carefully chosen language with words and sentences that fully express the main idea at an appropriate level of expression.** * Collegiate-style writing is employed (avoid informal (contractions) and conversational (I, we, you) language.
* Thoughtful word choice and careful sentence structure enhances communication.
* Cliché, slang, weak repetition, wordiness, and awkward phrasing are avoided.
* Inclusive language for humanity is used.
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| Meets the ideal well | 9-10 |
| Meets the ideal | 8 |
| Aspects of the ideal are insufficient | 7 |
| Aspects of the ideal are poor | 6 |
| Does not meet collegiate standards | 0-5 |

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| **Mechanics:**10 points | **The ideal essay is word processed (typed) in proper format and lacks errors of spelling, grammar, and usage.*** It is free of major errors such as comma splices, fused sentences, fragments, lack of agreement and/or shifts in verb tense or point of view.
* It is free of minor errors of punctuation, misspellings, or misused words.
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| Pass = 100-70%A = 100-93%A - = 92-90% | B+ = 89-87%B = 86-83%B- = 82-80% | C+ = 79-77%C = 76-73%C- = 72-70% | D+ = 69-67%D = 66-60% | F = 59% or lower |

 | **Total points out of 100:** | **0** |