

Essay Content Grading Guidelines

- A (90-100)** Unusually clear thesis that identifies a clear and interesting point based on the literary selection that can be argued. Insightful and thorough analysis of the selection.
- A+ (98) Substantiative, relevant evidence explained thoroughly. Logical organization and skillful use of transitions. Fewer than five errors in documentation, including accuracy of quotations, acceptable summaries, and paraphrases, accuracy in parenthetical citations and on the Works Cited page.
- A (95)
- A- (91)
- B (80-89)** Clear thesis that identifies a clear and interesting point based on the literary selection that can be argued. Evidence is relevant but may not be substantive or as fully developed as it should be. Few problems in organization such as repetition or ineffective transitions. Contains 5-9 errors in documentation such as inaccurate quotations, unacceptable summaries or paraphrases, errors in parenthetical citations and on the Works Cited page.
- B+ (88)
- B (85)
- B- (81)
- C (70-79)** Thesis is recognizable but does not identify a significant them in the literary selection. Analysis lacks depth. Explanations are unclear or are vague. Contains unnecessary repetition or irrelevant material. Several problems in organization or with ineffective transitions. Contains 10-14 errors in documentation such as inaccurate quotations, unacceptable summaries or paraphrases, or errors in parenthetical citations and on the Works Cited page.
- C+ (78)
- C (75)
- C- (71)
- D (60-69)** Thesis is unclear or identifies only a minor area in the literary selection. Analysis lacks depth, showing on a superficial grasp of the story's meaning. May identify some elements but does not adequately explain them or relate them to the selection's meaning. Frequent problems in organization, making the analysis confusing. Contains 10-19 errors. In documentation such as inaccurate quotations, unacceptable summaries or paraphrases, or errors in parenthetical citations and on the Works Cited page.
- D+ (68)
- D (65)
- D- (61)
- F (55)** No evidence of a thesis or the thesis identifies a superficial idea in the literary selection. Shows very little understanding of the selection or provides only plot summary or generalities. Contains less than the minimum number of words, little no or no evidence of organization; ideas ramble or are excessively repetitive. Contains more than 20 errors in documentation such as inaccurate quotations, unacceptable summaries or paraphrases, or errors in parenthetical citations and on the Works Cited page.