

Rubrics for AP Essays

These rubrics are generic, but will serve as a scoring guide for your essays for some weeks to come. Please refer to this sheet if you have questions about your score on an essay.

9	<i>Excellent thesis; excellent illustrations (support); excellent organization; sound mechanics; effective imagination, sees and makes connections</i>
8	<i>Excellent thesis; excellent illustrations (support); effective organization; less imagination or speculation; a few mechanical flaws which do not reduce the impact of the analysis.</i>
7	<i>Intelligent, yet less concise thesis; effective illustrations; sound organization; adequate mechanics; a “safe” paper, beautifully done</i>
6	<i>Good, safe thesis; completely adequate in every way; some illustrations; a beginning, middle, and end; significantly less imagination</i>
5	<i>The thesis is adequate, yet unnecessarily general; predictable illustrations; general analysis; a few definite mechanical flaws; intelligent observations and conclusions</i>
4	<i>The thesis is too large or too vague; some illustrations, but surface analysis; definite mechanical flaws or carelessness; the writing has “moments” when it’s an essay</i>
3	<i>An adequate report; the thesis is much too large or vague; an intelligent summary; few illustrations; punctuation flaws; might reflect a simple lack of effort or hurried, last-minute preparation</i>
2	<i>The thesis, if it exists, is hiding; it is up to the reader to find it; assortment of rambling generalization; amidst all the generalization, there are enough intelligent observations to justify a passing grade; many grammatical errors</i>
1	<i>Lack of effort; no thesis; therefore, nothing to illustrate; no interest in topic; usually, rather brief, undeveloped</i>

9	98
8	92
7	87
6	82
5	77

4	70
3	65
2	55
1	50