

WRITING SKILLS ESSAY RUBRIC

THE BASIC SCHOOL

	Low Pass 7-7.5 Points	Pass 8-8.5 Points	High Pass 9-10 Points
Thesis	There is an unclear thesis/it is irrelevant or off-topic. Any questions posed by the thesis (if available) are not answered by the end of the paper.	The thesis is obvious, but it is not made in a single statement; it is interesting and relevant. The thesis poses an idea or question that is partially answered by the end of the paper.	The thesis is a single clear and eloquent statement of the central argument; it is original, interesting, and relevant. The thesis poses an idea or question that is answered by the end of the paper.
Support	There is poor or inappropriate use of information as evidence or support. The evidence used does not clearly support the main argument.	There is appropriate use of information as evidence or support. The evidence used to support the central point is well chosen, though not particularly rich or detailed.	There is outstanding use of appropriate information as evidence or support. The evidence used to support the thesis is rich, detailed, and well chosen.
Structure	The paper is poorly organized or fails to include an introduction, body, or conclusion. The introduction does not describe the paper accurately. It is difficult to follow which claims are being used as evidence and how that evidence is supposed to support the thesis. The conclusion is missing or is merely a restatement of the introduction.	The paper is well organized and contains an introduction, body, and conclusion. It is generally easy to follow which claims are being used as evidence and how that evidence supports the thesis. The paper uses the conclusion to tie up loose ends. Overall, the response is focused on a central theme, and although the focus may stray occasionally, the author's intentions are clear.	The paper has excellent organization and contains a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction highlights the thesis and makes it clear how the paper will get to this conclusion. The body makes explicit which claims are being used as evidence and how that evidence supports the thesis. The conclusion clearly sums up the paper and ties up loose ends. Overall, the paper is tightly focused on the thesis and is easy to follow and understand.
Syntax and Construction	Many sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical. In many paragraphs, there is not a distinct or coherent point; topic sentences are missing or unclear in a number of paragraphs.	Most sentences are complete and grammatical. Most paragraphs have one distinct and coherent point; for the most part, parts of each paragraph connect logically and effectively.	Virtually all sentences are complete and grammatically correct. Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point, expressed in a clear topic sentence; parts of each paragraph connect logically and persuasively.
Connections and Transitions	Connections and transitions between paragraphs are poor, haphazard, or missing. Also, it is unclear how each paragraph connects to the thesis.	Connections and transitions are present between most paragraphs and are generally effective. Also, most paragraphs clearly relate to the thesis.	All paragraphs move naturally from one to the next. Connections among paragraphs are clearly articulated and the transitions are effective. All paragraphs directly relate to the thesis.

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Originality	Original thought is limited or non-existent; if present, it is overshadowed by other's conclusions and is redundant.	Original thought is present, but it relies heavily on other's conclusions and is at times redundant.	Original thought is fresh and unique; it is the synthesis of the writer's experience and knowledge of the book, and it is not redundant.
	Low Pass 7-7.5 Points	Pass 8-8.5 Points	High Pass 9-10 Points
Tone	The paper lacks academic diligence. There are frequent informal and inappropriate usage errors—slang is present. Does not provide a tone that is consistent and appropriate for the audience or purpose.	The tone of the paper is mostly formal. There are some mistakes in usage—slang is not present. Provides a tone that is consistent	The tone of the paper is appropriately formal—slang is not present. Provides a tone showing a strong understanding of audience or purpose.
	Low Pass 7-7.5 Points	Pass 8-8.5 Points	High Pass 9-10 Points
Language and Style	The paper is not convincing in its use of language, is poorly developed and is inadequately supported by logic.	The paper is generally convincing in its use of language, is well-developed and adequately supported by logic.	The paper is entirely convincing in its use of language, is fully developed and supported by logic.
	Low Pass 7-7.5 Points	Pass 8-8.5 Points	High Pass 9-10 Points
Mechanics and Punctuation	The paper has frequent mistakes in capitalization, spelling, abbreviations, and italics; punctuation is often missing or incorrect.	The paper has some mistakes in capitalization, spelling, abbreviations, and italics; there are limited punctuation mistakes.	The paper has few or no mistakes in capitalization, spelling, abbreviations, and italics; there are virtually no punctuation mistakes.
	Low Pass 7-7.5 Points	Pass 8-8.5 Points	High Pass 9-10 Points
Overall Assessment	The paper shows limited mastery of any of the writing skills curriculum.	The paper shows successful mastery of some of the writing skills curriculum.	The paper shows successful mastery of almost all of the writing skills curriculum.
Subtotal			
TOTAL			

Student Name: _____ Turn-in Date: _____

Company: _____ Platoon: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date Graded: _____