

### Grading Rubric

The following rubric provides a rough idea of what makes for a good essay.

	Very Poor 0-17 pts	Poor 18-20 pts	Satisfactory 21-23 pts	Good 24-26 pts	Very Good 27-30 pts
Organization 30 points	No introduction No conclusion No order 400+ words over or under word limit	No introduction / conclusion Very confusing order 3-400 words over or under word limit	Introduction Conclusion Order is a little confusing 2-300 words over or under word limit	Introduction Conclusion Order is fine 1-200 words over or under word limit	Introduction Conclusion Everything flows beautifully <100 words over or under word limit
Clarity 30 points	Many pretentious words Many confusing sentences Lots of poor grammar	Some pretentious words Many confusing sentences Some poor grammar	Some pretentious words Some confusing sentences Some poor grammar	Nice words Nice sentences Good grammar	Nice words Good grammar Crystal clear
Content 30 points	Wrong topic No breadth No depth Total misunderstanding No explanations	Off topic a lot Little breadth Little depth Serious misunderstanding Poor explanations	On topic Fine breadth Fine depth A little misunderstanding Fine explanations	On topic Good breadth Good depth Good understanding Good explanations	On topic Excellent breadth Excellent depth Clever original points Excellent explanations
	0-5 pts	6 pts	7	8 pts	9-10 pts
References 10 points	No reference list No citations in text	Too short reference list Many incomplete citations Too much quoting	2 references in list A few incomplete citations Too much quoting	2 references in list Complete citations Well-chosen quotes	3 or more references in list Complete citations Well-chosen quotes

\*Cheating, e.g. plagiarism, will be reported and may result in the failure of the essay or of the course.

\*\* Students who expect to miss a submission deadline must e.g. provide a medical note. The deadline will then be extended. Otherwise, a late submission of an essay will be penalized with a reduction of 10% per day on the essay grade

## Essay Comments: Abbreviation Key

A: awkward expression	rl: reference list incomplete
AM: too ambitious, covers too much	RR: repetitive
C: clarify	rso: relevance to support doubtful
CN: conflates two points/arguments/objections	rto: relevance to objection doubtful
Cx: conclusion at odds with rest of paper	s: spelling
Dfn: define term	sh: shorten
E: explain more	si: simplify
f: be more focused	So?: draw conclusion explicitly
g: grammar	tf: too touchy-feely
gp: get to point quicker	U: unnecessary
h: heresy	VCL: very clear
hmmm: hmmm	w: why?
i: illustrate with example	wc: word count needed
I: independent thought	wc^: word count too high
IR: independent reading	wcv: word count too low
m: address more about the argument	we: wrong essay subject
ne: not exactly	wt: wrong title
ni: nice illustration	ww: wrong word
NOWL: not organized well	X: wrong
O: original	Xt: doesn't stick to topic
Obs: obscene	^^^: more needed
Og: organize better	^Co: more conclusion
OK: OK	^In: more intro
OWL: organized well	^Ob: more objections needed
p: perverse	^Re: more replies needed
pp: incomplete reference	^Su: more support needed
pr: pretentious	!?: really?
Px: point at odds with what's said elsewhere	√: good
qb: question begging	—\→: point does not follow
r: provide reference	: new sentence
R: relevance doubtful	//: new paragraph
rit: mention reference in text	///: new section