

Please note that this rubric is a simplified version of the more detailed rubric found later in this appendix. Your teacher may choose to use the detailed rubric to assess your essay.

Thesis Essay Rubric (Simplified)

Name: _____ Date of Assignment: _____

Content _____/72

Paragraph 1: Introduction _____/12

- Does the introduction contain a hook, a complex thesis, and an explanation of the thesis? _____

Paragraph 2: First Confirmation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence? _____
- Is this confirmation clearly explained and supported by evidence? _____

Paragraph 3: Second Confirmation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence? _____
- Is this confirmation clearly explained and supported by evidence? _____

Paragraph 4: First Refutation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that states an antithesis to the thesis?
Is the antithesis fully explained? _____
- Does the paragraph clearly refute the antithesis and provide evidence for the refutation? _____

Paragraph 5: Second Refutation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that states an antithesis to the thesis?
Is the antithesis fully explained? _____
- Does the paragraph clearly refute the antithesis and provide evidence for the refutation? _____

Paragraph 6: Conclusion _____/12

- Is the thesis restated in new words that express a fuller understanding? _____
- Does the author tell why the topic is important? _____

Style _____/8

Does the author include a creative title that reflects the heart of the essay? (2 points) _____

Has the author written the essay with consideration of the audience's makeup, disposition, and needs? (2 points) _____

Has the author consistently used formal language (with third-person perspective) throughout the essay? (4 points) _____

Form _____/20

Title, header, spacing, indentation, and font are formatted correctly and consistently (2 points) _____

In-text citations are included and formatted correctly (4 points) _____

Sentence variety _____

Many varied sentences: 4 points

Good sentence variety: 3 points

Some sentence variety: 2 points

Little or no sentence variety: 0 points

Grammar and usage _____

Few or no grammar errors: 4 points

Occasional grammar errors: 3 points

Some grammar errors: 2 points

Many grammar errors: 0 points

Number of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization errors _____

2 or fewer per page: 6 points

3 per page: 5 points

4 per page: 4 points

5 or more per page: 0 points

Total: _____/100

Thesis Essay Rubric (Detailed)

Name: _____ Date of Assignment: _____

Content _____/72

Paragraph 1: Introduction _____/12

- Does the hook captivate the reader's attention? (4 points) _____
- Is there a transition from the hook to the thesis? (1 point) _____
- Does the thesis clearly and specifically present an argument? Does it make a main argument and also mention two supporting arguments? (4 points) _____
- Does the explanation of the thesis make clear the meaning of the thesis? (2 points) _____
- Is there a transition between the introduction and paragraph 2? (1 point) _____

Paragraph 2: First Confirmation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that clearly makes a supporting argument in defense of the thesis? (4 points) _____
- Is the confirmation thoroughly and clearly explained? (2 points) _____
- Does the author use evidence (examples, quotes, details) to support the confirmation? Does the author use at least one quote or paraphrase (properly introduced and given context) as evidence? (6 points) _____

Paragraph 3: Second Confirmation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that clearly makes a supporting argument in defense of the thesis? (4 points) _____
- Is the confirmation thoroughly and clearly explained? (2 points) _____
- Does the author use evidence (examples, quotes, details) to support the confirmation? Does the author use at least one quote or paraphrase (properly introduced and given context) as evidence? (6 points) _____

Paragraph 4: First Refutation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that clearly states an antithesis to the thesis? (4 points) _____
- Does the paragraph include a clear explanation of the antithesis? (2 points) _____
- Does the paragraph include a clear refutation of the antithesis? (2 points) _____
- Does the author use evidence (examples, quotes, details) to support the refutation? Does the author use at least one quote or paraphrase (properly introduced and given context) as evidence? (4 points) _____

This rubric intentionally covers the many details of thesis writing found in this book. If you feel that it is too complex for your purposes, please consider using the simplified version of this rubric or creating a rubric that targets the specific needs of your students.

Content *(continued)*

Paragraph 5: Second Refutation _____/12

- Does the paragraph begin with a topic sentence that clearly states an antithesis to the thesis? (4 points) _____
- Does the paragraph include a clear explanation of the antithesis? (2 points) _____
- Does the paragraph include a clear refutation of the antithesis? (2 points) _____
- Does the author use evidence (examples, quotes, details) to support the refutation?
Does the author use at least one quote or paraphrase (properly introduced and given context) as evidence? (4 points) _____

Paragraph 6: Conclusion _____/12

- Is the thesis restated in new words? Does the restatement express a fuller understanding of the thesis based on insight gained from the body paragraphs? (6 points) _____
- Does the author tell why the topic is important? (6 points) _____

Style _____/8

- Does the author include a creative title that reflects the heart of the essay? (2 points) _____
- Does the author use specific and natural language that helps to clarify ideas throughout the essay? (2 points) _____
- Has the author written the essay with consideration of the audience’s makeup, disposition, and needs? (2 points) _____
- Has the author consistently used formal language (with third-person perspective) throughout the essay? (2 points) _____

Form _____/20

- Title, header, spacing, indentation, and font are formatted correctly and consistently (2 points) _____
- In-text citations are included and formatted correctly (4 points) _____
- Sentence variety
Many varied sentences: 4 points Good sentence variety: 3 points
Some sentence variety: 2 points Little or no sentence variety: 0 points
- Grammar and usage
Few or no grammar errors: 4 points Occasional grammar errors: 3 points
Some grammar errors: 2 points Many grammar errors: 0 points
- Number of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization errors
2 or fewer per page: 6 points 3 per page: 5 points
4 per page: 4 points 5 or more per page: 0 points

Total: _____/100