



Essay Competition Rubric

Entry Number: _____

Entry Score: _____

Use the checklist below to score the essay from a 1-9.

High Range Essays 9-8

- ___ Effectively proves thesis statement about a far-reaching topic
- ___ Purposefully utilizes a variety of research with a focus on primary sources
- ___ Is clear, well organized, and coherent
- ___ Includes ample commentary that bolsters key ideas presented in researched material
- ___ Contains very few errors or flaws, if any
- ___ Parenthetical citations are effectively utilized that refer to an accurate Works Cited page
- *A 8 and 9 paper have a mature, sophisticated writing style rarely seen in a 7 paper*

Middle Range Essays 7-6-5

- ___ Adequately proves thesis about a far-reaching topic
- ___ A variety of research is incorporated and/or attempted including primary sources
- ___ The argument is generally convincing but less cogent or developed; 5 essays may be somewhat weak
- ___ Includes sufficient commentary that supports ideas in researched material
- ___ Contains only minor errors or flaws
- ___ Citations are mostly accurate that refer to an attempted Works Cited page
- *A 7 paper demonstrates a more consistent command of writing conventions than does the 5 or 6 paper.*
- *A 5 paper does the minimum required by the assignment. It often loses focus and includes unnecessary details.*

Low Range Essays 4-3-2-1

- ___ Inadequately attempts to prove thesis; topic might not be far-reaching
- ___ Researched material is lacking in variety and/or primary source material
- ___ Writing demonstrates consistent weaknesses such as a lack of organization, awkward sentences, and word choice
- ___ Commentary about research material is lacking.
- ___ Contains multiple errors that might hinder understanding of essay
- ___ Multiple problems exist surrounding parenthetical citations and Works Cited page (example: a majority of the citations and/or Works Cited page is missing)
- *A 3 or 4 have a major error preventing this essay from being adequate.*
- *A 1 or 2 indicates major lack of understanding and control. It may also indicate severe writing problems.*