

Freshman Studies II: Essay Grading Sheet

Part 1: Basics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted on time • Properly formatted (margins, font size, # pages, references and acknowledgements) • Honor code reaffirmed 	
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Part 2: Argument and Organization

Title	
Overall content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the argument specific, centered on concrete details, and does it address the assignment? • Is there a clear thesis statement? • Does every paragraph support the thesis? • Is the essay organized in a way that makes it easy to follow? • Are the ideas creative, original, and thought provoking? • Your paper must advance an original thesis or move beyond material we discussed in class. 	
Introduction and thesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you avoid sweeping generalizations and clichés? • Have you introduced the problem/idea you will advance in your paper? 	
Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the structure allow your ideas to flow logically and to build in complexity? • Do you develop your paper in a way that ventures beyond plot summary (thesis-driven, based on ideas rather than simply following main points in the plot or structure of the text)? 	
Paragraph organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your paragraphs must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ topic sentences ○ supporting details ○ concluding/transition sentences 	
Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need to analyze the works you are describing and support your analysis with evidence and interpretation that moves beyond materials we have discussed in class. 	
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your conclusion summarize but also advance your argument? 	

Part 3: Style and Presentation

<p>Sentence concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied sentence openings.• Varied sentence structures (for example, do not rely too heavily on "...and...and"). Also, overusing openings like "It is..." and "There is..." leads to wordiness and lack of clarity.• Avoidance of passive voice.• Consistent verb tense• Awkward prose/syntax problems.• Dangling modifiers.• Parallel structure.	
<p>Word choice, syntax, and diction problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wordiness.• Colloquialisms.• Overused word, words, or phrases—other redundancies.• Incorrect word choice and other syntax problems.• Non-specific language (words like got).• Avoidance of the 2nd person pronoun (you).	
<p>Grammar and Punctuation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper use of punctuation• Spelling and capitalization• Comma splice (CS), run-on/fused sentence• Sentence fragment• Agreement (AGR)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ subject/verb○ pronoun/antecedent	

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