	Outstanding	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Unacceptable
Intro/Conclusion	 Introduction grabs attention and provides meaningful context to a persuasive argument Conclusion effectively restates the argument, but fresh language and meaningful insight leaves reader wanting more 	 Introduction sparks some interest and effectively introduces reasonable argument Conclusion restates arguments, but uses new language and shows understanding of the big picture 	 Introduction provides context for the argument but is obvious and/or basic Conclusion restates arguments, but recycles previous statements verbatim 	 Introduction or conclusion does not flow with the argument of the paper Introduction or conclusion contains blanket or vague statements; needs development to be effective 	No introduction and/or conclusion
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	2 1
Thesis	Argument is clearly articulated and persuasive, contains an original opinion	Thesis presents a reasonable opinion, argument is clear and focused	o Thesis is a plausible argument; contains a legitimate opinion, but somewhat broad and basic	Thesis demonstrates misunderstanding of the prompt or text	o Thesis not evident; thesis is a fact or plot summary; thesis not in correct position
		7 6	5	4 3	2 1
Topic Sentences and Transitions	o Topic sentences contribute to the highly persuasive nature of the argument	Topic sentences articulate precise argument; logically linked to thesis	o Topic sentences are present and make an argument connected to the thesis; however, ideas are obvious and basic	 Topic sentences are not linked to the thesis Topic sentences show misunderstanding or prompt or text 	 Topic sentences not evident Topic sentences are facts or summaries
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	2 1

Evidence	 You have chosen, for the most part, the best evidence to support your point Evidence is highly persuasive and effective in supporting your argument 	Your evidence is believable and convincing and supports your argument	Evidence is present, but superficial	 Evidence chosen does not support thesis/topic sentences Textual evidence is irrelevant 	Little or no evidence;
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	2 1
Commentary	o Creative/original ideas and insights; extensive commentary, refreshing; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary	O Analysis is believable and convincing, a few assertions may lack specific examples, but assertions are still clearly connected to the argument	Analysis supports your argument, but ideas are obvious and basic	O Ideas lack development; misunderstanding of prompt or text; illogical argument;	 Analysis not present simply plot summary Analysis does not address the prompt
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	2 1
Style, Vocabulary, Sentence Structure	Sophisticated vocabulary; sentence variety; quotations are smoothly blended	Effectively blends direct quotation with explanatory words and phrases to introduce the quotation and facilitate narrative flow; still attempting advanced vocabulary	Blend quoted material smoothly; but sentence structure lack variety- basic and obvious; attempts to incorporate more advanced vocabulary	o Problems with sentence clarity, redundancy; some quotes stand alone; some vague sentences; little use of class vocabulary or sentence variety	o Serious problems with coherence and sentence clarity; most sentences need revision; most quotes stand alone and lack introduction/ connection to the paper
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	2 1



Mechanics and	o Perfect!	o Effective punctuation;	o Minor problems with	o Several distracting	o Major spelling,
Coherence	(or 1 or 2 minor errors)	close to perfect	coherence, grammar, spelling, punctuation, but does not interfere with the understanding of paper	problems with spelling, grammar, punctuation, coherence; citations incorrect	grammar, punctuation errors; distracts and interferes with understanding of paper; citations non-
	9 8	7 6	5	4 3	existent 2 1

Comments: Average: _____ / 9

Grading Scale: 1= 50 2=60 3= 65 4= 70 5=75 6= 85 7= 90 8= 95 9=100



Reflection Questions

Please answer these questions before turning in your essay. You must write your answer in complete sentences.

- 1) What's something in your essay that you're proud of?
- 2) What do you think could be improved? What do you want suggestions on when I read your essay?
- 3) Is there anything else you think I need to know in order to grade your essay fairly?

Rubric Reflection

Please answer this question after you have received your graded essay back.

Do you think the grade you received on your essay was too high, too low, or just right? In a well-written paragraph explain why, using specific examples from the rubric and your essay to prove your opinion about your grade.

If you can argue convincingly that your grade should be higher, I may choose to do so. In no instance will your grade be lowered, so please answer honestly. Your answer to this question will count as a homework grade.

