

AP Essay Rubric

Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Thesis:	Presents a clear, well-developed, complex thesis	Presents a clear, developed thesis	Presents a simple thesis with limited development	Presents a thesis that is confused or underdeveloped, or essay lacks a thesis
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Evidence	Supports thesis with substantial, relevant, and accurate evidence	Supports thesis with relevant and helpful evidence	Supports thesis with limited, but appropriate evidence	Provides minimal, irrelevant, or insufficient evidence
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Knowledge	Demonstrates superior knowledge of subject	Demonstrates good knowledge of subject	Demonstrates average knowledge of the subject	Demonstrates superficial or insufficient knowledge of the subject.
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Analysis	Provides an effective analysis that answers all aspects of the question; thoroughly addresses counter-arguments	Provides analysis but may not devote equal weight to all parts of the question; addresses counter-arguments	Analysis is present but superficial; fails to address counter-arguments; does not sufficiently address all parts of the question	Little or no analysis; describes rather than analyzes; only answers one part of the question
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Organization & Presentation	Paper has strong structure, logical flow, and obvious agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has a structure, logical flow, and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has a weak, but present structure, understandable flow, and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper is wandering, incoherent, has mismatched introduction and conclusion, or lacks either
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Written Expression	Writing presents no obstacles to understanding; high degree of skill and complexity	Contains only minor errors that do not seriously detract from the essay/argument; writing is skillful	Contains some errors that do not detract from overall essay/argument; writing is competent	Contains major errors or numerous minor ones that detract from the essay/argument; illegible

Grading Scale:									
AP Scale	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Numeric Grade	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	60	55
Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B	B-	C	C-	D-	F

GENERIC AP SCORING RUBRIC

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most essays, but final judgment rests upon both the evaluator's understanding of the subject and professional expertise. Poorly written essays should never be scored in the upper half, and those with serious literacy problems should not receive a score higher than a 3.

Top scores 9-8: These are well-written papers which respond fully to the question asked. The best papers are confident and persuasive, showing a thorough understanding of the issue (text) and supporting their points with well-selected quotations, details, and/or arguments. Writers of these essays demonstrate stylistic maturity by an effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. The writing need not be without flaws, but it should reveal the writer's ability to choose from and control a wide range of elements of effective writing. These papers are frequently characterized as **distinguished/substantial**.

Upper scores 7-6: These essays also respond appropriately to the prompt but less fully or effectively than the essays in the top range. Their discussion may be less thorough and less specific. These essays are generally well-written in an appropriate style but may reveal less maturity, less support, or less insight than the top papers. Nevertheless, they do make use of suitable textual support and details to prove their points. Some lapses in diction or syntax appear, but the writing demonstrates sufficient control over the elements of composition to present the writer's ideas clearly. These papers are frequently characterized as **excellent/solid**.

Middle score 5: These essays respond to the question, but the discussion may be simplistic or imprecise; they may be overly generalized, vague, or tend toward the superficial. These essays are adequately written, but may demonstrate the inconsistent control over the elements of composition. Organization is attempted, but it may not be fully realized or particularly effective. The analysis or discussion may be formulaic. These papers are frequently characterized as **minimally adequate**.

Lower scores 4-3: These essays attempt to deal with the questions, but do so inaccurately, partially, or without adequate supporting evidence. They may show some misunderstanding or omit pertinent analysis. The writing may convey the writer's ideas, but it may reveal weak control over diction, syntax, or organization. These essays often contain spelling and grammatical errors. Statements generally lack the support of persuasive and well-chosen evidence. These papers are frequently characterized as **deficient**.

Lowest score 2-1: These essays compound the problems of the 4-3 essays. They fail to respond adequately to the question. They may reveal misunderstanding or may distort the interpretation. Generally, these essays are **unacceptably brief** or **poorly written** on several counts. Although some attempt to answer the question may be indicated, the writer's view has little clarity. When present, supporting detail and/or quotations are slight or poorly chosen, or quotations may be used to replace discussion. These papers are frequently characterized as **severely deficient**.

A+	99-100 (AP score of 9)	50 Points
A	94-98 (AP score of 8 or 9)	47-49 Points
A-	92-93 (AP score of 8)	46 Points
B+	89-91 (AP score of 7)	45 Points
B	84-88 (AP score of 6 or 7)	42-44 Points
B-	82-83 (AP score of 6)	41 Points
C+	78-81 (AP score of 5 or 6)	39-40 Points
C	74-77 (AP score of 5)	37-38 Points
C-	72-73 (AP score of 4)	36 Points
D+	69-71 (AP score of 3 or 4)	35 Points
D	65-68 (AP score of 3)	33-34 Points
F	64 and below (AP score of 1 or 2)	32 Points and below