**Essay Rubric**

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| **Skills** | | | | |
| **Element** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **Giving examples/ evidence**  **(quotes or actions)** | Almost no evidence provided | Clear effort made to use evidence. However, explanation is often absent. (or vice-versa) | Strong attempt to support key points throughout. Significance requires more depth of explanation. | **All key points supported with specific examples/evidence, relevant to the focus of the question. The significance of each one is fully explained and adds to the meaning of the response. You are able to provide your own point of view at a sophisticated level.** |

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| **Organization** | | | | |
| **Element** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **Topic sentence** | No topic sentence | Topic sentence is very general | Topic sentence is clear and relevant to the focus of the question | **The first sentence (and/or the second) of each paragraph answers the question. The topic is specified and grabs the reader’s attention** |
| **Paragraph**  **body** | Little attempt made to stay on track | The paragraph wanders from the focus of the question. | The paragraph generally supports the topic sentence and the focus of the question | **Each paragraph discusses a clear and relevant topic and has an excellent topic sentence. It clearly focuses on answering the question, and has a clear sense of purpose. Ideas are fully developed.** |
| **Closing sentence** | May be present but very unclear. | Clear attempt to provide a general conclusion. | The concluding sentence is clearly present. It may repeat the points in the introduction. | **The final sentence clearly ends the paragraph or transitions into the next paragraph. It can serve to clearly specify the importance of the information in that paragraph and its relevance to the question or it builds a link into the next section.** |
| **Essay structure** | Introduction and/or conclusion may not be present | Introduction vague. Conclusion does not tie up points and/or introduces new evidence. Body is disorganized | Strong attempt made to create an introduction and conclusion that have a clear purpose. Body is organized but occasionally offtrack. | **Introduction clearly answers the question and outlines key points of the essay (topics of paragraphs)**  **Body is clearly organized in paragraphs. The structure helps to communicate meaning.**  **Conclusion ties up all points and leaves the reader thinking** |

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| **POINTS** | **< 13** | **14 - 15** | **16 - 17** | **18 - 20** |