

## Advanced Placement English Nine Point Essay Rubric

- 9-8 These well-written essays take a clear position on the issue, supporting their view with thoughtful and convincing examples. They illustrate a sound awareness of the requirements of the argumentative essay. They demonstrate stylistic maturity by an effective command of sentence structure, diction and organization. The writing need not be flawless, but it reveals the writer's ability to choose from and control a wide range of the elements of effective writing.

A paper in this category demonstrates **clear and consistent competence** though it may have occasional errors. Such a paper

- effectively and insightfully addresses the writing task
- is well organized and fully developed, using clearly appropriate examples to support ideas
- displays consistent facility in the use of language, demonstrating variety in sentence structure and range of vocabulary

- 7-6 These essays advance a thesis, but support it in a less specific and convincing manner than the best writers do. They are well written in an appropriate style, but with less maturity than the top papers. Some lapses in diction or syntax may be present, but the writing demonstrates sufficient control over the elements of composition to present the writer's ideas clearly

A paper in this category demonstrates **reasonably consistent competence** though it will have occasional errors or lapses in quality. Such a paper

- effectively addresses the writing task
- is generally well-organized and adequately developed, using appropriate examples to support ideas
- displays facility in the use of language, demonstrating some syntactic variety and range of vocabulary

- 5 These essays are somewhat tentative in stating a thesis and not altogether deft in constructing an argument. They are adequately written, but without demonstrating control over the full range of the elements of composition. Organization will be evident, but it may not be fully realized or particularly effective.

A paper in this category demonstrates **adequate competence** with occasional errors and lapses in quality. Such a paper

- addresses the writing task
- is organized and somewhat developed
- displays adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, presenting some errors in grammar or diction
- presents minimal sentence variety

- 4-3 These essays take the initial steps toward establishing an argument, but fall short in managing the necessary supportive details. The writing is sufficient to convey the writer's ideas, but it suggests weak control over diction, syntax, or organization. These essays may contain consistent spelling errors and/or flaws in grammar.

A 4 paper demonstrates **developing competence**. Such a paper may contain one or more of the following weaknesses:

- inadequate organization or development
- inappropriate or insufficient details to support ideas
- an accumulation of errors in grammar, diction and/or structure

A 3 paper demonstrates **some incompetence**. Such a paper is flawed by one or more of the following details:

- poor organization
- thin development
- little or inappropriate detail to support ideas
- frequent errors in grammar, diction and/or structure – errors begin to obscure meaning

- 2-1 These essays lack clarity or persuasive force in their assertion and in their use of evidence. They are unaccountably brief or poorly written on several counts. The writing reveals consistent weaknesses in the basic elements of composition. Although some attempt to answer the question has been made, there is little or no evidence supplied in support. This is an incompetent paper.

- 0 No response or an off-topic response.