

Essay Assessment

Name: _____

1. Is your essay persuasive? **Arguments** used to support your thesis are
 - highly persuasive, refreshingly original and very intelligent.
 - reasonably persuasive; are occasionally predictable but are accurate and show thought.
 - somewhat persuasive in places but somewhat weak in others; occasionally are repetitive, forced, or inaccurate.

2. The **quotations** you used to support your thesis are
 - well integrated and well-chosen.
 - appropriate but not always well-integrated.
 - too numerous; rely mostly on your own words for legitimacy.
 - lacking; more quotations would add further validity to your ideas.
 - non-existent and needed.
 - not required for this assignment.

3. The **transition words/phrases** that you use between paragraphs are
 - sophisticated and effective; they smoothly move essay forward.
 - predictable but successful in bringing the reader 'along'.
 - missing; they are needed to persuasively move your arguments forward.

4. Have you mastered your essay's all-important **thesis statement**?
 - thesis statement is accurately found at the end of your introduction, is specific, arguable, and integrated throughout your essay.
 - thesis is accurately placed, but is not as powerful as it could be.
 - thesis is not completely clear to the reader; be specific.
 - thesis statement is incorrectly placed or missing.

5. Have you let your reader know of the **three key support points** that you will use to defend your thesis statement in your introduction?
 - a minimum of 3 points are there, and they are elaborated upon in the body of your essay.
 - less than three support points are readily apparent in your introduction.
 - support points are there but they are repetitive or not clear.
 - you have not included any indication of the arguments you will use to support your thesis in your introduction; this is a serious error in essay writing.

6. The **opening line** of your essay
 - is compelling and original.
 - is somewhat predictable but appropriately general and on topic.
 - needs work.

(cont'd)



Essay Assessment (cont'd)

Name: _____

7. Your all-critical **vocabulary** use
- is sophisticated, compelling, and refreshing; your writing 'sings'! shows deliberately manipulated diction for strong effect.
 - is impressive in places and reasonable in others.
 - is accurate but often predictable; consciously work on adding more specific, descriptive, and interesting words to your writing.
8. **Topic sentences** are critical to strong essay writing.
- you begin your body paragraphs with specific, arguable topic sentences.
 - some of your body paragraphs do not start with a topic sentence. (this is a serious error in essay writing; work on mastering this skill)
 - errors include topic sentences that are too broad , are a question , are a quotation , or are a fact that's not debatable.
9. The **tone** of your essay
- is appropriately formal and doesn't use the 1st person 'I'.
 - occasionally slides into slang/colloquial expressions.
 - is occasionally personal when it needs to be formal; never use phrases like 'I think', 'I believe', or 'I feel'. The reader already knows what you think/believe/or feel simply by reading your essay.
10. The **content** of your essay is
- excellent; you have included much solid evidence of depth and originality.
 - decent; you have included a reasonable amount of support material but some of it is predictable; always strive to include your most interesting, compelling arguments.
 - somewhat lacking; even more solid evidence from the text is needed to back up your thesis. This will make your essay more persuasive.
 - occasionally off-topic; every sentence must add to your thesis. Do not bother with 'filler' material (like rehashing plot) that does not deal directly with your thesis. Detailed analysis is key.
11. **Grammatically** speaking, your essay is
- excellent; it's all but error free.
 - solid; your occasional errors do not overwhelm the reader.
 - somewhat shaky in several places; this is distracting to the reader.
 - weak; significant errors are being made. Proofreading is not obvious. You need to master some key grammatical rules.

