

Rubric for AP Essays: Ms. July / AP English Language & Composition 2021-- 2022

Score	Letter Grade	Criteria for Score
6	A+	<p>Thesis (1 pt.): Essay responds to prompt with a defensible thesis that analyzes the writer’s / speaker’s rhetorical choices.</p> <p>Evidence & Commentary (4pts.): Essay makes textual references (direct quotes or paraphrases) that are relevant to the thesis AND provides well-developed commentary that consistently and explicitly explains the relationship between the evidence and the thesis.</p> <p>Sophistication (1 pt.): Essay demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.</p>
5	A	<p>Thesis (1 pt.): Essay has a defensible thesis as defined above.</p> <p>Evidence & Commentary (3-4 pts.): Essay makes relevant textual references; however, if awarded 3 points commentary is uneven, limited, or incomplete.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Sophistication (0-1 pt.): Essay does not demonstrate sophistication of thought, such as by oversimplifying complexities in the text.</p>
4	B	<p>Thesis (1 pt.): Essay has defensible thesis—see above.</p> <p>Evidence & Commentary (2-3 pts.): Essay makes textual references and provides commentary; however, it is incomplete/uneven AND oversimplifies or misinterprets evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>Sophistication (0-1 point): Essay does not represent sophistication of thought if awarded 0 points.</p>
3	C	<p>Thesis (1 pt.): See above.</p> <p>Evidence & Commentary (2 pts.): Essay makes textual references and provides commentary that links the evidence to the thesis, but suggests misunderstanding of the passage; commentary is unconvincing.</p> <p>Sophistication (0 pts.): See above.</p>
2	D	<p>Thesis (0-1 pt.): No defensible thesis is present if essay receives 0 pts in this category.</p> <p>Evidence & Commentary (1-2 pts.): See above for 2-pt. criteria; essay receiving a score of 1 in this category summarize the text without reference to a thesis, provide vague references to the text and little or no commentary.</p> <p>Sophistication (0 pts.): See above.</p>
1	F	<p>Essays receiving a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 in some areas, but are either overly simplistic or marred by severe deficiencies in the elements of composition, argumentation, and rhetorical analysis.</p>

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