

Scoring Rubric for Analytical Essay
(Based on AP College Board FRQ standard essay scoring
and Common Core Writing standards)

Directions: Read through the full essay and circle the statements that reflect a fair evaluation of the specific elements of the essay (e.g. quality of thesis). The grading scale is 0-9 based on the rubric below.

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that directly answers the question, and addresses all of the parts of the question.
- Contains a statement of structure with the thesis (either implied or explicit).
- Provides effective analysis of the question.
- Supports the thesis with substantial and relevant information.
- May contain minor/insignificant errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written (including using the active voice).

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a clear thesis with limited development, with a statement of structure (either implied or explicit) that addresses some of the parts of the question.
- Limited or lack of understanding of the complexity of the question; may deal with one part of the question in some depth, or all in a more general way.
- Limited analysis of the question, mostly describes.
- Supports the thesis with some factual information.
- May contain minor errors that do not seriously detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an unfocused or limited thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
- Deals with the question in a general manner; simplistic, superficial treatment of the subject; very weak or inappropriate analysis of the question.
- Contains little factual information, or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- May have major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 1 Essay

- Contains no thesis or a thesis that does not address the question.
- Exhibits inadequate or incorrect understanding of the question.
- Has little or no factual information.
- Has numerous errors.
- Is organized and/or written so poorly that it inhibits understanding.

The 0 Essay

- Is completely off topic or blank