**Thesis Essay Grading Rubric**

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|  | **12**  above standards | **10**  meets standards | **8**  approaching standards | **6**  needs improvement |
| Introduction and thesis statement | All intro components are extremely compelling and concise. Thesis statement is very well-structured.  Theme is complex and uses excellent word choices. | Intro components are present and compelling. Thesis structure is present with all components. Word choice or phrasing is effective. | Most of the intro components are present. Thesis statement structure missing elements. Theme lacks complexity. Word choice or phrasing may need work. | Many of the intro components are missing. Thesis statement structure missing many elements. Word choice or phrasing makes thesis difficult to understand. |
| topic sentences | All components from structure are present.  Uses excellent word choice to convey the ideas. | All components from the structure are present. Word choice or phrasing may need work to clarify ideas. | Most of the components from the structure are present. Word choice or phrasing needs work. | Many of the components are missing from the structure. Word choice or phrasing may make the topic or branch UI difficult to understand. |
| evidence/analysis | All evidence is relevant, seamlessly integrated, and accurately cited. Analysis insightfully links the evidence to the universal idea. | All evidence is relevant and cited correctly, though it may not be seamlessly integrated. Analysis links the evidence to the universal idea, but the link may not be complete. | Evidence is sometimes irrelevant, and quotes may be “floating.” The analysis is inconsistent in its ability to link the evidence to the universal idea. | Evidence is mostly irrelevant or missing. The analysis does not effectively link the evidence to the universal idea, or the analysis is missing. |
| grammar/mechanics | no errors that hinder the clarity of the essay | very few errors that hinder the clarity of the essay | amount of errors hinders the clarity of the essay at times | amount of errors seriously hinders the clarity of the essay |
| MLA format | essay follows all guidelines | 1 minor MLA error | a few errors in formatting | does not follow MLA guidelines |

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/60 points**

**Comments:**