

Analytical Essay - First Draft Rubric

Student: _____ Section: _____

| | Strong | Good | O.K. | Weak |
|---|--------|------|------|------|
| Title The title is engaging, accurate, avoids clichés, and is not too long. | | | | |
| Critical Thinking The essay is insightful rather than vague or superficial; the essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; the essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration. | | | | |
| Support The essay uses specific examples that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; any musical examples are accurately described. | | | | |
| Structure The essay includes an introduction; the essay presents a logical flow of ideas and avoids straying or meandering; each paragraph remains focused on a single main idea; the essay includes a conclusion that is not a repetition of the intro. | | | | |
| Use of technical vocabulary The essay uses discipline-specific vocabulary appropriately and accurately. | | | | |
| Written Skill The essay is well-organized and generally contains correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling; the essay demonstrates appropriate and effective word choice and style; the prose is easy to follow, precise, and clear; the essay avoids both vagueness and redundancy. | | | | |
| Requirements The essay adheres to the requirements of prompt (length, format, number of examples, and kinds of examples). | | | | |

Common problem areas – any items circled are relevant to your essay

1. Inaccuracies.

2. Ineffective introduction or conclusion. Try writing your introduction last or using your conclusion as your introduction (and writing a new conclusion!)

3. Unfocused paragraphs. Each paragraph should have one main idea. Make sure all sentences in the paragraph support the topic sentence.

4. Weak evidence. Examples should support your argument explicitly. Your descriptions of your examples may be too vague.

5. Too much summary. Analyze, don't summarize! Focus on what each idea means more than listing what happens.

6. Confusing flow of ideas.

7. Grammar/Punctuation.

8. Requirements (length, number of examples, format, etc.)