

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AN ESSAY SCC Department of English and Humanities	Name: Section Number:
EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION OF IDEAS	POINTS
Introduction (10 points) <i>The Little, Brown Handbook (TLBH), 13th Edition, Chapters 1 and 4e</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus the reader's attention on the subject of the essay in a thorough paragraph of thought-provoking sentences leading effectively into the thesis statement. If the thesis is not stated, as in a narrative or argument that implies the main idea or builds to the main point in the conclusion, provide background or use other devices to stimulate interest in your subject and provide a direction for your essay. 	
Thesis (10 points) <i>TLBH, Chapters 1 and 2b</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Clearly, specifically, and interestingly state or imply the main idea that the essay will explain or support. Option 2: If appropriate, build to the main point stated or clearly implied in the conclusion. 	
Development (35 points) <i>TLBH, Chapters 2-4, especially 2a, 2c, and 4c</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly support or explain the thesis or build to a logical conclusion in a series of vivid, interesting paragraphs, fully developed with facts, examples, reasons, narration, description, comparison, cause and effect, process analysis, or other appropriate methods. 	
Expression (10 points) <i>TLBH, Chapters 23 and 37-39</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use precise language, varied sentence beginnings, and varied sentence patterns to express ideas. 	
Unity (10 points) <i>TLBH, Chapter 4b</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make each sentence in a paragraph adhere to the main idea of the paragraph; make each paragraph adhere to the main idea of the essay. 	
Organization and Coherence (10 points) <i>TLBH, Chapter 4c</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange ideas in a logical order; use transitions and other cohesive devices to link ideas effectively within and between paragraphs. 	
Conclusion (10 points) <i>TLBH, Chapter 4e</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically complete the development of the thesis or build to the main point of the essay. 	
Format (5 points) <i>TLBH, Chapter 47c</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the MLA format. 	
Creativity and Revision (up to 5 points) <i>TLBH, Chapter 3a-f</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 5 extra points may be awarded for creative expression or improvement through revision. 	
EFFECTIVELY WRITTEN SENTENCES (See chapters in <i>TLBH</i>.)	
Excessive Major Errors: Avoid errors in: fragments (17), comma splices (18), and fused sentences (18). <i>(2 points deducted per error)</i>	
Sentence Structure: Avoid errors in subordination (24), coordination (24), parallelism (25), or awkward sentences (22). <i>(1 point deducted per error)</i>	
Grammar and Usage: Avoid inappropriate verb or pronoun use (14), subject-verb or pronoun-antecedent disagreement (15a and 15b), unclear pronoun reference (19), misplaced or dangling modifier (21), inappropriate shift in person or tense (20), redundancy (39), imprecise language (38), or incorrect usage (37, 38). <i>(1 point deducted per error)</i>	
Spelling and Capitalization: Avoid errors in spelling (40) and capitalization (33). <i>(1 point deducted per error)</i>	
Punctuation: Avoid misuse of the apostrophe (30), brackets (32d), colon (32a), comma (28), dash (32b), ellipsis (32e), exclamation point (27c), hyphen (40d), parentheses (32c), period (27a), question mark (27b), quotation marks (31), semi-colon (29), slash (32f), underlining (34), or italics (34). <i>(1 point deducted per error)</i>	
ESSAY GRADE: A=100-93; B=92-85; C=84-77; D=76-70; F=69-0	