

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AN ESSAY SCC Department of English and Humanities <i>The Little Seagull Handbook (TLSH), 3rd Edition</i>	Name: Section Number:
EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION OF IDEAS	POINTS
Introduction (10 points): W-4d (pp. 28-29) 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.	
Thesis (10 points): W-3b (p. 10) Clearly, specifically, and interestingly state or imply the main idea that the essay will explain or support.	
Development (35 points): W-4 and W-5 (pp. 17 - 36) 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) S1 – S9 (pp. 314 - 350) and L1 – L9 (pp. 351 - 378) Use precise language, varied sentence beginnings, and varied sentence patterns to express ideas.	
Unity (10 points) W-4c (pp. 25 – 28) 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) W-3c – W-4e (pp. 11 – 29) Arrange ideas in a logical order; use transitions and other cohesive devices to link ideas effectively within and between paragraphs.	
Conclusion (10 points) W-4e (pp. 28 – 29) Logically complete the development of the thesis or build to the main point of the essay.	
Format (5 points) MLA-e (pp. 161 – 169) Follow the MLA format.	
Creativity and Revision (up to 5 points) W-3 – W-3g (pp. 9 – 16) Up to 5 extra points may be awarded for creative expression or improvement through revision.	
EFFECTIVELY WRITTEN SENTENCES	
Major Errors: (2 points deducted per error) Fragments S-2 (pp. 317-320) ; Comma splices S-3 (pp. 320-321) ; Fused sentences S-3 (pp. 320-321)	
Sentence Structure: (1 point deducted per error) Subordination & Coordination S-8 (pp. 348-349) ; Parallelism S-7 (pp. 345-347) ; Awkward sentences L-1 – L-10 (pp. 351-379)	
Grammar and Usage: (1 point deducted per error) Avoid: Inappropriate verb or pronoun use S-4 (p. 322) and S-6 (p. 339) ; Subject-verb or pronoun-antecedent disagreement S-5 (p. 334) and S-6a (p. 339-341) ; Unclear pronoun reference S-6b (pp. 341-342) ; Misplaced or dangling modifier L-7c (pp. 372-373) ; Inappropriate shift in person or tense S-9 (pp. 349-350) ; Redundancy L-6d (p. 369) ; Imprecise language L-2 (p. 353)	
Spelling and Capitalization: (1 point deducted per error) Avoid errors in: Spelling and Capitalization P-8 (pp. 409-411)	
Punctuation: (1 point deducted per error) Avoid misuse of: Apostrophe P-5 (pp. 399-402) ; Brackets P-6d (p. 405) ; Colon P-2 (pp. 403-404) ; Comma P-1 (pp. 386-391) ; Dash P-6b (p. 404) ; Ellipsis P-6e (pp. 405-406) ; Hyphen P-7 (pp. 407-408) ; Parentheses P-6c (p. 405) ; Period P-3a (p. 394) ; Question mark P-3b (p. 394) ; Quotation marks P-4 (pp. 395-398) ; Semicolon P-2 (p. 392) ; Slash P-6f (p. 406) ; Italics P-9 (pp. 411-413)	
ESSAY GRADE: A=100-93; B=92-85; C=84-77; D=76-70; F=69-0	