

AP Literature & Composition

College Essay Rubric

Name: _____

*From Miami University Portfolio Scoring Components

	Exceptional	Worthy	Lacking
Piece is developed – obviously written with purpose	Writing is fully developed in all aspects – the purpose is clear and powerful	Writing is sufficiently developed in most respects – the purpose is clear	Writing lapses in development overall – purpose is apparent but weak
Shows when appropriate – creating scenes, using dialogue & internal monologue	Vivid writing with impactful story telling and/or development of the author's thinking	Clear writing with somewhat impactful storytelling and/or development of the author's thinking	Somewhat vague or generalized writing; like does not really show a story or depth of thought
Demonstrates an awareness of audience	Clearly written on an adult intellectual level with a powerful emotional response	Appropriate for the intellectual adult with some emotional impact	May seem immature or unsophisticated; little or superficial emotional response
Senses the power of writing	Powerful word choices; sense of style & pacing	Good word choices; some style & pace but somewhat mechanical	Ordinary word choices; nothing startling or inspired
Writes with control, consistency, and voice	Writing choices have clear intent, maintains that intent, and seems unique to the author	Writing choices seem intentional but may lapse into ordinary choices; may seem a bit generic	Writing is ordinary, obvious, predictable; author doesn't seem to make an attempt at personal voice.
Supports with details & assertions when appropriate	Piece is fully supported in all assertions	Piece is generally well-supported but may lack needed detail in spots	Piece lacks needed support throughout & in key spots
Demonstrates evidence of reflection & critical thought	Thinking behind the entire essay is critical, insightful, introspective, genuine, & well - considered	Thinking behind most of the essay is critical, insightful, introspective, genuine, & well - considered	Thinking behind the essay sometimes seems superficial, trite, or forced
Mechanically & grammatically correct	Flawless	Flawless	Noticeable errors – you can't have these in a true college essay!