**Essay 1 Rubric**

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| **Key Elements of Essay 1** |  |  |  |
| **Opening Scene & Intro (50 pts. possible)** | Exemplary: compelling hook & clear connection to a larger, societal issue (40 – 50 pts.) | Developing: opening hook is not compelling or engaging, and the connection to a larger issue is tenuous (25 – 39 pts.) | Beginning: no clear personal opening, connection to larger issue is unclear or not present (0 – 24 pts.) |
| **Research Journey/Exploratory Research (25 pts. possible)** | Exemplary: research process is defined and explained from start to finish, sources clearly and strongly connect to introduction & societal issue, sources are scholarly (20 – 25 pts.) | Developing: research process is defined but significant steps are not discussed; sources are tangential and not connected clearly to the issue discussed (11 – 19 pts.) | Beginning: research process is only briefly described; sources are not clearly related to the societal issue; the majority of sources are not scholarly in nature (0 – 10 pts.) |
| **Synthesis of Research (100 pts. Possible)** | Exemplary: research is presented thematically; research is discussed thoroughly, and all sources are cited and incorporated in that discussion (80 – 100 pts.) | Developing: research is presented report-like with minimal connection to a theme; some sources are not cited or incorporated in the synthesis; there’s very little engagement of the research with the societal issue the writer has promised to discuss (45 – 79 pts.) | Beginning: research is reported, not synthesized by theme; no sources are cited or incorporated in the discussion; the research does not address the societal issue the writer has promised to discuss (0 – 45 pts.) |
| **Proposal (50 pts. Possible)** | Exemplary: there’s a clear and compelling proposal for how the organization should address the issue; the audience (institution/organization) is clearly addressed (40 – 50 pts.) | Developing: there’s only a brief proposal made for how the organization should address the issue with no concrete steps for implementation; there’s very little consideration of the audience for the proposal or the institution/organization you are addressing (25 – 30 pts.) | Beginning: there’s no proposal made for how the organization should address the issue; there’s no acknowledgement or consideration of audience, the organization or institution you’re addressing (0 – 24 pts.) |
| **Flow (50 pts. Possible)** | Exemplary: strong connections from one paragraph to another with clear transitions and a clear organizational structure; within paragraphs the structure is also strong with ACE development consistently demonstrated (40 – 50 pts.) | Developing: there are some transitions between paragraphs, but the overall organization and structure breaks down at some points in the paper; within paragraphs there are breaks in flow with not all demonstrating the ACE format (25 – 30 pts.) | Beginning: paragraph transitions are weak; the overall organizational structure is unclear; most paragraphs do not follow the ACE method ((0 – 24 pts.) |
| **Citations, Grammar, Sentence Level Issues (25 pts. Possible)** | Exemplary: citations are in APA format, no major grammatical errors, no glaring sentence level errors (20 – 25 pts.) | Developing: citations are in APA format, some grammatical errors, some sentence level errors (11 – 19 pts.) | Beginning: citations are not in APA format, consistent grammatical errors, consistent sentence-level errors (0 – 10 pts.) |