

# AP English 12 Essay Rubric

CRITERIA	POINTS	Excellent 5	Good 4	Competent 3.5	Weak 3	Inadequate 2
<b>Stimulating Ideas</b>  X 8	  /40	The essay contains original ideas, offers unusual insight, and provides specific convincing evidence to support writer's position.	The essay asserts a clear main idea and offers appropriate detail in support of ideas.	The purpose may not be clearly stated, or the thesis may be formulaic. The supporting detail are often thin, and the essay may contain vague generalities or unrelated detail.	The essay's purpose is unclear or may not address the entire topic, support is vague or unconvincing, and development is merely rudimentary.	The essay lacks focus or contains inaccurate information, and there is no evidence offered to support the essay's ideas.
<b>Logical Organization</b>  X 4	  /20	The essay imparts a feeling of wholeness and unusual clarity. Organization inventively suits topic and purpose.	The essay's points are logically ordered, well developed, and unified around a clear and apparent organizing principle.	Organization is competent for topic and purpose. Paragraphs may be too brief, rambling, or discursive with few transitions.	The essay lacks clear planning, and paragraphs may be loosely constructed and insufficiently developed.	There appears to be no plan of organization in the essay, and paragraphing may be neglected altogether.
<b>Engaging Voice</b>  X 3	  /15	Writer's tone is appropriate for topic, reveals knowledgeable enthusiasm, and generates interest in the audience.	Writer speaks in a convincing and knowledgeable way that is appropriate for the topic and conveys his or her interest in the topic.	Writer conveys knowledge of the topic but does not adequately communicate interest.	Writer's tone shows lack of interest and/or knowledge in topic.	Writer's tone is inappropriate for the topic, and the writer shows lack of knowledge in the topic.
<b>Original Word Choice</b>  X 3	  /15	Diction is distinguished for its range, exactness, and creativity.	The language is apt and precise, with clear references and correct inference.	Words lack precision and color; generalizations rather than exact distinctions are made.	Word choice is trite or inappropriate.	Choice of words is impoverished or frequently inexact.
<b>Effective Syntax</b>  X 3	  /15	Sentences in varied patterns clearly advance the writer's ideas.	Sentences reveal variety and a facility in expression.	Sentences lack variety and are overly safe or monotonous.	Sentences are awkward, ambiguous, or immature in structure.	Sentences are confused and meaningless or are constructed in elementary style.
<b>Correct, Accurate Copy</b>  X 3	  /15	Copy is flawless. Writer strictly adheres to MLA format and conventions of the English language.	Copy includes few minor errors. Writer follows MLA format and English conventions with occasional lapses in editing.	Copy exhibits multiple types of minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or MLA format but no major errors.	Copy contains errors (major* or repeated minor) in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or MLA format.	Copy is marred by pervasive major* errors that interfere with the meaning of the essay and shows a disregard for MLA format.
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>/120</b>					

\* Major errors include comma splice, fused sentence, artless fragment, and subject-verb agreement mistake.