

## Essay Grading Rubric for Erin Miller

### Commend

1. Thesis/focus well defined \_\_\_\_\_
2. Original title \_\_\_\_\_
3. Good introduction/conclusion \_\_\_\_\_
4. Good analysis \_\_\_\_\_
5. Uses argumentation throughout \_\_\_\_\_
6. Good internal logic \_\_\_\_\_
7. Vivid/effective examples \_\_\_\_\_
8. Use of specific detail \_\_\_\_\_
9. Great Sentence \_\_\_\_\_
10. Good use of active verbs \_\_\_\_\_
11. Good quote \_\_\_\_\_
12. Good introduction of quote \_\_\_\_\_
13. Good historical context \_\_\_\_\_
14. Each paragraph has sub-claim/topic sentence \_\_\_\_\_
15. Extra credit for working with a tutor \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggest

16. Needs thesis statement (in first paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Needs clearer focus/writing \_\_\_\_\_
18. Fix introduction/conclusion \_\_\_\_\_
19. Need deeper analysis \_\_\_\_\_
20. Check contradictions \_\_\_\_\_
21. Give more examples \_\_\_\_\_
22. Use more detail \_\_\_\_\_
23. Run-on Sentences \_\_\_\_\_
24. Punctuation \_\_\_\_\_
25. Proofreading \_\_\_\_\_
26. Passive Verbs \_\_\_\_\_
27. Use evidence from primary sources \_\_\_\_\_
28. Work with Tutoring or Student Success Centers \_\_\_\_\_
29. Subject-verb agreement \_\_\_\_\_
30. Verb tense \_\_\_\_\_
31. Awkward \_\_\_\_\_
32. Need a title \_\_\_\_\_
33. Fragment \_\_\_\_\_
34. Introduce quotes \_\_\_\_\_
35. Cite evidence/quotes \_\_\_\_\_
36. Include more content \_\_\_\_\_
37. Doesn't meet assignment requirements \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Proofreading:** You have some good ideas in your paper. **Proofreading** your paper will fix typos and incorrect words that will make your ideas clearer and more powerful. It is best to print your paper when you proofread. Two additional ways of catching errors include reading your work out loud and reading it backwards.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Active Voice:** Try to replace your passive verbs, such as "was, is, be, have been, being, etc.," with active verbs. It will make your arguments more powerful and your writing even more engaging. For example, the sentence, "today we still have attitudes and beliefs that echo those of the South in 1866" becomes even stronger if you say something like this, "today's attitudes and beliefs echo those of the South in 1866." One or two word changes and your sentence becomes more argumentative and engaging. I hope this helps.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Speak Up:** You have keen insight. I hope you will speak up more in class. Others would benefit from what you have to say.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have several powerful insights.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your writing style made your paper very engaging.

\_\_\_\_\_ You demonstrate sound knowledge of the subject and details. Well done.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be sure to state your thesis in the first paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_ Good use of evidence from the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ You demonstrate a good knowledge of the events and details.

\_\_\_\_\_ It might help to read your papers out loud. It will help you catch sentences and phrases that are unclear.

\_\_\_\_\_ Avoid long sentences; instead use short ones. If you use short sentences, your ideas will be clearer and more engaging.

\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent! Your thesis is clear and in the first paragraph!

\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent. You maintain an argument tone, backed by evidence throughout your paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ Avoid passive words. Using active verbs makes an argument more powerful and your writing more engaging.

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mechanics: \_\_\_\_\_ Style: \_\_\_\_\_ Argument: \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence/Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_ Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_