

Basic Thesis Paper Rubric

100 points

Thesis and Main Idea – 20 pts.

- How well developed is the thesis? Does it simply restate the prompt?
- How precise and specific is the thesis?
- Is the thesis presented in a concise and compelling introduction?
- Is an objection to the thesis considered and resolved?

Evidence – 20 pts.

- How much evidence is presented?
- How well-integrated into the paper is the evidence?
- Is evidence relevant and well-selected?
- Is every piece of evidence analyzed or are some quotes left untouched (e.g. ending a paragraph with a quote from the text but no commentary on it)?
- Is evidence properly cited in MLA format?

Clarity and Organization – 20 pts.

- Are paragraphs controlled by one precise claim in each?
- Is the order of the paragraphs sensible?
- Are transition words aptly used?
- Does the paper have a strong conclusion?

Copy Quality and Errors – 20 pts.

- Is the paper written in the third person active voice?
- Are all verbs, except for those in quotes, in the present tense?
- Are there grammar and spelling mistakes?
- Are there typos?

Creativity – 20 pts.

- How sophisticated is the word choice?
- Does the paper feature strong verbs, precise nouns, and colorful modifiers?
- Does the paper feature a variety of transition words?