

EXTENDED DEFINITION ESSAY RUBRIC (40)

	Excellent - 4 pts	Good - 3 pts	Fair - 2 pts	Poor- 1 pt
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper. Includes a thorough anecdote as a lead.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting. Attempts to develop an anecdote.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting. Does not include an anecdote.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Sequencing	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting. Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.
Conclusion	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at."	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.
Focus on Topic	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea / Theme stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea / Theme is clear but the supporting information is general.	Main idea / Theme is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea / Theme is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Support for Topic	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Definition	Clear and well defined extended definition; does an exemplary job of supporting thesis.	An extended definition has been created; does a good job of supporting thesis.	An extended definition is created. The author attempts to support a thesis.	An extended definition is attempted; little support for thesis.
Voice and Personality	The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The writer balances his/her voice with direct quotes and paraphrased information.	The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic. There is little or no reference to authority.	The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic.	The writer has not tried to transform the information in a personal way. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else.
Sentence Fluency	Every paragraph has sentences of different types, and all sentences are correctly punctuated.	All paragraphs have sentences that vary in length but there are minor problems in punctuation with a few sentences.	Some sentences vary in length, or there are several sentences with punctuation errors.	Sentences rarely vary in length or there are frequent errors in punctuation.
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind; words seem accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind; occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest.
Conventions	Writer makes no or few errors that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes a few errors that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes several errors that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes many errors, making the essay difficult to read.