

The 2013-14 Cornell Club of Rochester Essay Contest Grading Rubric

Category	10	9-8	7-6	5
Organization & Structure	- Has obvious thesis and summary and well-organized supporting arguments	- Has obvious thesis and summary but supporting arguments are not well-organized	- Has no obvious thesis OR no obvious summary AND supporting arguments are not well organized	- Is completely disorganized
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis is clear and is relevant to quote - Provides convincing supporting arguments to thesis - Provides clear and compelling summary of thesis and arguments - Discusses 2 or more examples from personal or cultural experience¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis is clear but not relevant to quote OR is vague but relevant to quote - Provides somewhat convincing supporting arguments to thesis - Provides clear but not compelling summary of thesis and arguments - Discusses 1 example from personal or cultural experience and mentions 1 additional example¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis is vague and is not relevant to quote - Provides weak supporting arguments to thesis - Provides vague summary of thesis and arguments - Discusses 1 example from personal or cultural experience¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides no thesis - Provides no supporting arguments to thesis - Provides no summary of thesis and arguments - Provides no example from personal or cultural experience¹
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro compels you to read on - All sentences are well-constructed - Uses varied sentence structure and length - Descriptions contain vivid words and phrases - Mostly uses strong action verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro is interesting but not compelling - Most sentences are well-constructed - Sometimes uses short choppy or long run-on sentences - Descriptions contain ordinary words and phrases - Often uses strong action verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro is bland - Some sentences are well-constructed - Often uses short choppy or long run-on sentences - Descriptions contain bland words and phrases - Sometimes uses strong action verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro discourages further reading - Very few sentences are well-constructed - Mostly uses short choppy or long run-on sentences - Descriptions contain clichéd words and phrases - Rarely uses strong action verbs
Grammar & Spelling	- Contains 0 grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors	- Contains 1-2 grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors	- Contains 3-4 grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors	- Contains 5 or more grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors

¹ Most essays deal with a life experience and that counts as one example. Each book, movie, song, etc. that a student mentions to support the quote or enhance the discussion counts as an additional example.