

English 103 Argument Based on Research Casebook Rubric

	Points Possible	Points Earned & Comments
Introduction: Engaging, original title; introduction orients and engages reader and is well developed; debatable thesis is located at or near the end of the introduction. The introduction is free from glaring errors.	1	
Thesis Statement: Clear, firm, debatable thesis based on approved casebook topic.	1	
Body: Effective organization and paragraphing: clear topic sentences and good ¶ development, unity, and coherence. Topic sentences and body ¶s support thesis statement. Transitions smoothly link body ¶s. Essay goes beyond the five-paragraph structure.	1	
Supporting Evidence: Direct quotes, facts, statistics, examples, definitions, observations, and reasoning; at least two casebook sources from the textbook are clearly used in the body of the essay; infusion of research and interpretation of data. Strive for eight quotes throughout essay.	1	
Opposition: Counterargument is acknowledged, validated, and refuted; Essay thoughtfully considers alternative viewpoints and multiple perspectives.	1	
Persuasion: Compelling use of logos, pathos, and ethos (logical argument and reasonable tone); argument is convincing. Opposition is not alienated or antagonized, including the consideration of diverse viewpoints and perspectives.	1	
Critical Thinking: Original, thoughtful insights; problem solving evident; research data is analyzed; not just a regurgitation of research.	1	
MLA Documentation: Accurate application of signal phrases referring specifically to authors, direct quotes, and parenthetical citations (use page numbers for print sources and paragraph numbers for Internet sources) ; quotes longer than 4 typed lines are blocked; summaries are introduced by signal phrases referring to authors and concluded with parenthetical citations. Each source listed on the Works Cited page is clearly used and documented in the body of the essay.	1	
Conclusion: Satisfying wrap up; leaves lasting impression; thesis not repeated verbatim; not unnecessarily repetitive; new information is not introduced; framing technique is employed (echo or restate your engaging title).	1	

Works Cited Page: Properly formatted; 4-8 sources are accurately documented; sources have identifiable, credible authors. Each source used in the body of the essay is clearly documented on the Works Cited page.	1	
Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling: Accurate, clear prose, including third person point of view.	1	
Assignment Criteria: Length (5-8 pages plus separate Works Cited page), critical thinking, and MLA manuscript format.	1	
Total	12	

English 103: *Handmaid's Tale* Rubric

	Points Possible	Points Earned and Comments
Title and Introduction: Engaging, original title (not just the title of the novel); introduction orients reader (includes thesis statement), is well developed, and refers to both the author and the title of the piece.	1	
Thesis Statement: Clear, firm articulation of topic and opinion about topic; thesis is located at or near the end of introduction. If the thesis is evaluative, clear criteria from Evaluating Literature Lecture Notes are used.	1	
Body: Paragraphs are well developed (meaty), unified (support topic sentences), and coherent (fluid). Clear topic sentences and persuasive body paragraphs support the thesis statement. Transitions are used to link body paragraphs. The essay goes beyond the five-paragraph essay.	1	
Supporting Evidence: Ample quotes (at least two per body paragraph), specific examples, details, explanations, and sufficient, relevant interpretation and/or evaluation (<i>not plot summary: too book reportish</i>).	1	
Element of Fiction: Thorough discussion/application of at least one fiction element (characterization, theme, symbolism, etc.): see Elements of Fiction Lecture Notes.	1	
Critical Thinking: Original perceptions, thoughtful comments, and critical reading and thinking. It is clear that the entire novel was actively read; there is some discussion of the resolution of the novel, and major characters are included. Essay thoughtfully considers alternative viewpoints and multiple perspectives.	1	
Conclusion: Satisfying, well-developed closure; not unnecessarily repetitive; new information is not introduced. Thesis is not repeated verbatim. Framing technique is employed: echo or restate title.	1	
Accuracy: Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling: including use of present verb tense and third person point of view.	1	
MLA Documentation: Correct use of signal phrases, direct quotes, and parenthetical citations. Long quotes are blocked. Accurately formatted and documented Works Cited page included. The novel is the only source used.	1	

Assignment Criteria: Length (four to six pages plus Works Cited page), analysis (<i>not plot summary</i>) and MLA manuscript format.	1	
Total	10	