ENGL 50:ESSAY RUBRIC

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| GRADE | A | B | C | D/F |
| Argumentation | The A essay is thoughtful and constructed around a clear argument supported by evidence gleaned from careful consideration of the texts. The essay contains a clear thesis, logical organization, transitions between ideas and paragraphs, close reading, and textual analysis. All A papers demonstrate a deep engagement with the texts. | The B essay contains all or most of the elements of the A paper, but one or more of the aspects might need additional explanation or clarification. B papers also might not demonstrate as thorough an awareness of textual complexity. | The C essay makes some accurate observations about the texts, but may not have a clear argument. Engagement with the texts present but perhaps not always effective. | D or F papers lack argumentation and demonstrate little or no engagement with the primary texts. An F paper does not address the prompt. |
| Clarity | The writing is clear and concise, drives the argument, and enhances the overall essay. | The writing effectively communicates the ideas of the argument. | The writing may lack some clarity, but generally does not obstruct the meaning of the argument. | The writing makes the argument more confusing. |
| Grammar/ Spelling | The grammar is varied stylistically and spelling does not obstruct the meaning of the essay. | The sentences make sense and there are very few if any spelling errors. | There are some mistakes, but the meaning of the sentences is preserved. | The sentences are hard to understand due to spelling and grammar mistakes. |
| Overall Organization | The essay is deliberately organized for clarity. Paragraphs are ordered logically. The argument is made clearer by the overall organization. | The organization does not obstruct the meaning of the argument. Paragraphs are ordered logically. | There is an overall structure, but certain elements seem out of place. | It is unclear why elements of the essay are located accordingly. |