

Grading Criteria For Writing Assignments
Illinois Valley Community College English Department

	Thesis	The thesis is the central idea of the essay that is appropriate for the assignment, gives the essay a controlling sense of purpose, and establishes a sustained and consistent focus. The thesis statement concisely expresses the main idea and previews the supporting ideas.
	Audience	The content and style are tailored for the intended audience.
ORGANIZATION	Essay	An essay demonstrates a logical progression of ideas, provides clear and smooth transitions among ideas, and uses structure appropriate to an academic essay.
	Body Paragraphs	A body paragraph includes a main idea expressed in a topic sentence strongly tied to the stated thesis, unified supporting details, and clear connections among ideas.
	Introduction and Conclusion	An introduction captures the reader's attention, transitions to the topic by giving context or background information, and presents the thesis statement. A conclusion reemphasizes the essay's thesis and main ideas and provides a sense of closure.
SUPPORT	Development of Ideas	A well-developed essay supports the thesis with ample evidence; uses a variety of specific examples, quotations, or other details; and explains the evidence to show its connections to the thesis.
	Level of Thought	The essay presents clear, sophisticated, insightful ideas that recognize the complexity of the topic without inaccuracies or errors in reasoning.
EXPRESSION	Use of Standard Written English	The essay is written in Standard English without errors in sentence boundaries, spelling, punctuation, mechanics, and grammar.
	Style	The essay is written in a consistent, academic tone, using varied sentence structure and accurate and precise word choice.
	Use and Documentation of Sources	The essay accurately quotes and paraphrases credible sources, effectively balances source material with the writer's own ideas, and cites and documents correctly according to the standards of the discipline.
	Format	The essay is formatted according to the standards of the discipline.
		The essay meets assignment requirements.