

National College Board Advanced Placement Rubric

AP Score	Grade	Criteria
9	98	Essays earning a 9 meet all of the criteria for 8 papers and, in addition have a more effective prose style, are particularly apt in analysis, and demonstrate stylistic command.
8	94	Essays earning an 8 establish a clear sense of the writer's understanding of the prompt and the passage as well as control of the language. They are specific in their references and provide unique, imaginative, and creative positions, examples, or points. The 8 paper demonstrates communication using varied sentence structure and vocabulary but need be without flaws
7	90	Essays earning a 7 fit the description of 6 essays but are more distinguished from the by fuller analysis or stronger prose style
6	87	Essays earning a six possess a degree of clarity with adequate support that convinces the reader of the writer's position. They relate all the examples to the thesis and move logically point to point to conclusion. These essays are well-written but with less maturity, depth, or control than the top papers. They demonstrate the writer's ability to analyze a literary work, but they reveal a more limited understanding than do papers in the upper range.
5	83	Essays earning a 5 state a position, but their analysis of the topic is limited and/or inconsistently pertinent. Superficiality, somewhat simplistic thinking and/or immature planning or clarity may be evident.
4	80	Essays earning a 4 responds inadequately to the prompt. They may have the "what" but not the "how" or "why". Often, they misrepresent the position, analyze with limited purpose or accuracy, and/or identify various events of passages without relating them to the thesis. They may include listing or plot summary. The 4 paper denotes a reasonable, yet ineffective or inconsistent control of organization, diction, and syntax.
3	75	Essays earning a 3 are described by the criteria of the 4 paper but are particularly unperceptive in their attempts to discuss the prompt and demonstrate more problems in communication such as language control or unclear thesis.
2	70	Essays earning a 2 demonstrate little success in dealing with the task of analysis in the prompt or in establishing a position. Some essays substitute a simpler task or do not use the literature as a foundation. The 2 paper demonstrates an inability of the writer to control the various elements of language.
1	60	Essays earning a 1 have all of the qualities of the 2 paper but are even more simplistic and possess less control of the language. Some fail to respond to the prompt or simply paraphrase.