

**Prompt** is a professional word that indicates the “question” on which your instructor or exam creator requires you to base an assigned essay. It is your essay assignment.

**Rubric** is the professional word for a set of rating standards employed by the reader(s) of a given essay.

The AP English essays are characterized as high, middle, and low range. With a specific formula, these scores are combined with the multiple choice score and converted into an overall rating of the complete exam that ranges from 5 to 1.

## GENERIC RUBRIC FOR AP LITERATURE ESSAY

		Criteria
9 A+/A	High range	A <u>9</u> essay has all the qualities of an 8 essay, and the writing style is <i>especially impressive</i> , as is the <i>relationship between the text and the subtext</i> and the <i>inclusion of supporting detail</i> .
8 A/A-		An <u>8</u> essay will <i>effectively and cohesively</i> address the prompt. It will refer to the appropriate text and provide specific and relevant references from the text to illustrate and support the writer’s thesis as related to the prompt. The essay will indicate the writer’s ability to perceive the relationship between text and subtext in a clear and mature writing style.
7 B+/B	Middle range	A <u>7</u> essay has all the properties of a 6, only with <i>more well-developed</i> analysis/discussion related to the prompt or a more mature writing style.
6 B-/C+		A <u>6</u> essay <i>adequately</i> addresses the prompt. The analysis/discussion is on target and makes use of appropriate references from the chosen literary work to support the thesis. However, these elements are less fully developed than scores in the 7, 8, or 9 range. The writer’s ideas are expressed with clarity, but the writing may have a few errors in syntax and/or diction.
5 C+/C		A <u>5</u> essay demonstrates that the writer <i>understands the prompt’s requirements</i> . The analysis/discussion of the text and how it relates to the prompt is generally understandable, but it is limited or uneven. The writer’s ideas are expressed clearly with a few errors in syntax and/or diction.
4 C-	Low range	A <u>4</u> essay is <i>an inadequate response</i> to the prompt. The writer’s analysis/discussion of the text and how it relates to the prompt indicates a misunderstanding, an oversimplification, or a misrepresentation of the chosen literary work. The writer may use evidence that is inappropriate or insufficient to support his or her thesis.
3 D+		A <u>3</u> essay is a lower 4 because it is <i>even less effective</i> in addressing the text and how it relates to the prompt. It is also less mature in its syntax and organization.
2 D		A <u>2</u> essay indicates <i>little success in speaking to the prompt</i> . The writer may misread the question, choose an unacceptable literary work, only summarize the selection, fail to develop the required analysis, or simply ignore the prompt and write about another topic altogether. <b>(Note: No matter how good the summary may be, it will NEVER rate more than a 2).</b>
1 F		A <u>1</u> essay is a lower 2 because it is even <i>more simplistic, disorganized, off topic, and lacking in control in language</i> .

