

I will not grade your essay and you will lose one letter grade if the first 8 conditions are not met. My essay:

- 1) Has a separate page where I've listed: 1) My thesis statement; 2) Five reasons why I believe my thesis statement reflects a powerful argument; and 3) Five reasons why my thesis statement is not solid or there are gaps in the position I've taken. The five reasons why my thesis statement is solid and the five reasons why it may not be **MUST** all be included in my paper.
- 2) Is the right word count _____, and is on time _____.
- 3) **Uses six legitimate outside references.** Direct quotations or paraphrasing must be 20 percent or less of your overall content. Do not string quotes together. **Two of these sources must be graphs, charts, diagrams that support your position.** Legitimate sources are academic research. (You may use magazines, journals, books, LEGITIMATE websites. You may not use, dictionaries, Wikipedia, or other such references) _____.
- 4) Uses at least two direct quotations from the primary source (this does not include the 6 outside sources) _____.
- 5) **Uses APA format,** with parenthetical references in the narrative and a properly a References page _____.
- 6) Has a thesis statement that is underlined. This is the only content in your first paragraph. _____.
- 7) Has this COMPLETED checklist attached _____.
- 8) Is stapled in the upper left corner and does not use plastic covers or unnecessary folders _____.

The following items are considered to be part of the learning process and can be revised if needed.

- 9) Has an original and creative title _____.
- 10) **Has a well-developed/thought out, concise, strong thesis statement** that declares a purpose and/or position, and functions to point the reader in the direction I intend to go. I understand that the thesis is the one stand alone statement in the text that can be extracted and offered as a guide for the reader. Elements in the thesis are used as an outline and to structure the essay. The thesis statement should be preceded by a good introduction and followed by a transition to the next paragraph, to the body of the essay _____.
- 11) **Has a well-developed body, overall organization/structure and content.** The body of my essay works hard to elaborate and expand on those salient elements outlined in the thesis. There is a mathematical arrangement where the main points in my thesis are the main focus or topic of each subsequent paragraph. There are no redundancies and each idea is well-thought out and developed beyond cliché and common thought so that it is personal, original, and imaginative. My essay maintains a well-mapped structure with strong logic, coherent paragraphs, and overall cohesive unity _____.
- 12) **Uses effective sentence variation, clarity, and relevant word choice.** My sentences vary in length and **arrangement** to create smooth narrative flow. My word choice accurately reflects definitive knowledge of subject matter, reactions, and reflections _____.
- 13) **Is free of grammatical (mechanics and usage) errors _____.** (If you are struggling with grammar and/or mechanics issues, I will ask you to complete exercises from the website to be turned in with your revision or the next paper.)
- 14) Has been given to someone to proofread for me _____.
- 15) Avoids redundancy and cliché _____.

Student: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Essay#: _____