UNPACKING THE EE RUBRIC: A CHECKLIST FOR FASTIDIOUS CANDIDATES

N	Criterion	Strands	What's it worth?	Where should I see evidence?	Things to look for
	Criterion A: Focus and Method	Topic communicated accurately and effectively. Research question is clearly stated as a question and focused. Methodology of the research is complete.	6 points	Introduction	 Is the topic communicated in the introduction? What is the problem being addressed in the introduction? Is the personal, disciplinary, and global significance of this topic addressed in the introduction? Is there a clear arguable research question bolded and italicized in the introduction? Is there a thesis and line of argument previewed in the introduction? Not "will explore" but "will argue". Are the methodological steps taken to answer the question outlined in the introduction? With a rationale for these steps?
	Criterion B: Knowledge and Understanding	Knowledge and understanding are excellent. Use of terminology and concepts is good.	6 points	Body	 Does the argument apply disciplinary-specific terms and concepts? Does it engage with perspectives and theories of authors/ experts working in the discipline?
	Criterion C: Critical Thinking	The research is excellent. The analysis is excellent. Discussion/Evaluation is excellent. *****	12 points	Body & Discussion and Conclusion	Body: Is the paper organized into distinct parts of an argument? Does each part of the argument tie to the research question with clear topic sentences? Does the student address limitations of evidence and analysis throughout? Does the student weigh alternative evidence and other possible explanations?

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				Conclusion: Is there a clear and consistent answer to the question in the student's voice? Does the essay discuss the broader significance of the argument? **This is not a report: The most common thing to go wrong here is "background", overview, narration, and description-anything that does not advance the argument should be limited.
Criterion D: Presentation	Presentation is good.	4 points	Cover page, TOC, Reference Section	 Does the paper look like an academic paper? Cover page with title, candidate number, word count. Double-spaced. Page numbers. Body of the paper divided into descriptive subheadings. In text citations in a recognized format such as MLA, APA or Chicago used consistently. Reference section alphabetized and formatted. Proof-read and spell checked.
Criterion E: Engagement	Engagement is excellent.	6 points	3 reflections: 150, 150, 200	Do the reflections demonstrate engagement and growth in the face of challenges?

^{*****}Analysis means to break something down into parts, structures, or processes. Evaluation means to assess the significance of something. An effective essay must attempt both.