

CORRECTOR'S CRITERIA

"Knowing how you will be graded is half the battle." - Anonymous

FIRST GRADING CRITERION: "Comprehension and Insight"

This refers to your understanding of the reading and your ability to analyze and/or criticize it.

- Did you identify the author's **main idea** accurately? Did you clearly state it?
- Have you identified several **techniques** and **devices**? Have you explained their effect or their implications?
- Have you actually **analyzed** and **interpreted** – not just summarized – the author's ideas and use of techniques and devices?
- Did you make frequent, detailed **references** to the reading? Did you discuss specific details, points, examples, statements, scenes, etc.? Do these references show that you understood the author?

SECOND GRADING CRITERION: "Organization of Response"

This refers to the structure of your essay and to your paragraphing.

- Was your **thesis** actually a response to the author's idea? Did you clearly state it? Did it form the basis for your entire discussion?
- Did you include all the necessary components in your **introduction**? Did each **body paragraph** have a clear **topic sentence**? Did your ideas follow each other in logical order? Did you include a **conclusion**? Did you write **about 750 words**? Writing under 600 words is an automatic failure.
- Did your **ideas** and your **references** to the reading actually support your thesis statement?
- Did each body paragraph present **one particular idea**? Did you present each idea in your topic sentences? Did all the details in each body paragraph relate closely to its topic sentence? Did the ideas in each body paragraph **flow** smoothly together?

THIRD GRADING CRITERION: "Expression"

This refers to your basic English skills.

- Have you expressed your ideas **clearly** through carefully chosen words?
- Did you avoid **run-on sentences** and **fragments**? Did you use an appropriate mix of simple and complex sentences?
- Did you use correct **grammar**? Were you consistent? (e.g., verb tense, verb consistency, subject-verb agreement, plurals, pronoun agreement, prepositions, etc.)
- Did you use correct **spelling, punctuation, and mechanics**? (e.g., apostrophes, capitalization, quotation marks, hyphenation, etc.)

Contact us at the Academic Skills Centre for more help preparing for the exam.