

History Essay Rubric

Saint Paul College

	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Novice
CONTENT - PROBLEM-SOLVING/CRITICAL THINKING RUBRIC – 70%				
Identify/Define Thesis Does the paper clearly state a thesis providing a concise answer to the question: “Why is <i>Common Sense</i> important in American history?	Constructs a clear and insightful thesis statement with evidence of all relevant contextual factors.	Constructs an adequately detailed thesis statement with evidence of contextual factors.	Constructs a thesis statement with some evidence of contextual factors, but superficial.	Needs to identify a thesis statement and/or related contextual factors.
Gather information from multiple sources Does the paper utilize at least three additional sources (including at least two secondary sources) and convey an understanding of the context in which Paine wrote the pamphlet?	Carefully evaluates <i>Common Sense</i> and at least three additional evidence-based credible, sources and conveys a clear understanding of historical context.	Uses <i>Common Sense</i> and at least three additional evidence-based, credible sources and conveys a general understanding of historical context.	Uses <i>Common Sense</i> and a limited number of additional sources based on facts or expert opinion. Conveys an incomplete understanding of historical context.	Uses <i>Common Sense</i> but no other credible sources. Needs to acknowledge the context in which the pamphlet was written.
Analyze and Evaluate information Does the paper analyze and evaluate <i>Common Sense</i> and the additional sources?	Accurately and precisely analyzes and evaluates the argument in <i>Common Sense</i>	Adequately analyzes and evaluates the argument in <i>Common Sense</i>	Needs to consistently analyze and evaluates the argument in <i>Common Sense</i>	Needs to interpret <i>Common Sense</i> in an unbiased way.
Formulate solution / Defend position Does the paper use credible evidence to support its thesis statement?	Identifies appropriate position with sharp distinction between points, coherent perspectives including strengths and limitations.	Identifies appropriate position, distinguishes between points, and argues using coherent perspectives.	Needs to focus position, some distinction between points, argument poorly supports position.	Needs to identify position or explain reasoning, no counter arguments, when appropriate.
PRESENTATION - COMMUNICATION RUBRIC – 30%				
Main ideas are clear and well formulated. Are ideas in the paper clearly expressed? Is the	Advances main ideas that are clear and focused.	Advances main ideas that are focused, but could be developed	Advances main ideas that are simplistic and/or does not fulfill	Needs main ideas that are clear, appropriate and well formulated.