## **Grading Rubric**

| Category  | <b>Points</b> | General Comments |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Focus:<br>Does the essay have a clear<br>central thesis with a clear<br>introduction providing a road<br>map to the reader?   | 20            |                  |
| <b>Organization:</b><br>Does the essay have a clear<br>overall structure? Are<br>arguments and evidence<br>logically sequenced and<br>organized hierarchically? Is<br>each paragraph in the body of<br>the essay organized around a<br>main idea? Are connections<br>drawn among the key points?<br>Does the essay present a<br>coherent defense of your<br>thesis?   | 25            |                  |
| <b>Content &amp; use of evidence:</b><br>Does the introduction provide<br>adequate background about<br>the topic and the related<br>controversies? Are your<br>arguments well developed,<br>with evidence from all the<br>source materials, including<br>class readings and<br>discussions, personal<br>observations and experience?<br>Are counterarguments<br>considered? Does the<br>conclusion draw the essay to<br>a close, highlighting the<br>central points in your<br>argument? Are sources<br>properly cited? | 30            |                  |
| <b>Expression:</b><br>Are ideas and information<br>articulated in clear, fluent<br>prose?   | 15            |                  |
| Mechanics:<br>Is the essay free of<br>grammatical, punctuation,<br>and spelling errors? Is the<br>essay of the right length?  | 10            |                  |
| TOTAL PTS   | 100           |                  |

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