Grid Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Adequate	Needs Significant Work	Score
Central argument 30 points	Has a specific thesis that is contestable, which is clearly stated from the start and remains the focus of the paper. The paper answers the "so what" question in ways that would be of interest to the author of the analyzed text.

(27-30 points) | Has a specific thesis that is contestable, which is clearly stated from the start, but the paper does not connect to it consistently. The paper attempts to answer the "so what" question, but misses the mark in terms of considering what would be interesting implications to the author of the analyzed text. *(23-26 points)* | Thesis is implied or not specific enough, and the paper does not connect back to it. The paper does not answer the "so what" question.

(16-22 points) | |
| **Rhetorical analysis** 30 points | The paper considers the author's purpose and audience. It analyzes strategies used by author, including the appropriate level of information for a general audience reader.

(27-30 points) | The paper considers the author's purpose and audience. It analyzes strategies used by the author, but does not include the appropriate level of information for a general audience reader. *(23-26 points)* | The paper does not consider the author's purpose and/or audience. It analyzes strategies used by the author, but does not include the appropriate level of information for a general audience reader. *(16-22 points)* | |
| **Organization and Development** 30 points | Paragraphs and structure advance the central thesis, with effective transitions and detailed development. The analysis gives multiple well-chosen examples, including appropriate quotations. *(27-30 points)* | Paragraph and essay structure are largely unified, developed, and adequately employ topic sentences and transitions. The analysis gives some examples and quotations, but not enough to support the analysis. *(23-26 points)* | Paragraphs and essay structure are disorganized, repetitive. or inconsistent in using topic sentences and transitions. Analysis lacks sufficient examples and quotations. *(16-22 points)* | |
| **Mechanics** 10 points | Excellent grammar, word choice, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation. Uses correct MLA formatting and citation throughout, including a reference list.

(9-10 points) | Several mistakes in grammar, word choice, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation, though errors do not significantly impede the meaning of paper. Makes some errors in MLA formatting and/or citation, but includes a reference list. *(6-8 points)* | Many mistakes in grammar, word choice, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation. Structural errors significantly impede the meaning of the paper. Makes many errors in MLA formatting and citation. Reference list is lacking or has many errors. *(3-5 points)* | |