AP Essay Scoring Rubric

	1 8
Student:	
Paper: _	Score:
Score	Description
9-8	 responds to the prompt clearly, directly, and fully approaches the text analytically curports a separant thesis with evidence from the text
A+/A	 supports a coherent thesis with evidence from the text explains how the evidence illustrates and reinforces its thesis employs subtlety in its use of the text and the writer's style is fluent and flexible has no mechanical and grammatical errors
7–6 A–/B+	 responds to the assignment clearly and directly but with less development than an 8–9 paper demonstrates a good understanding of the text supports its thesis with appropriate textual evidence analyzes key ideas but lacks the precision of an 8–9 essay uses the text to illustrate and support in ways that are competent but not subtle written in a way that is forceful and clear with few grammatical and mechanical errors
5 B	 addresses the assigned topic intelligently but does not answer it fully and specifically shows a good but general grasp of the text uses the text to frame an apt response to the prompt employs textual evidence sparingly or offers evidence without attaching it to the thesis written in a way that is clear and organized but may be somewhat mechanical marred by conspicuous grammatical and mechanical errors
4–3 B–/C	 fails in some important way to fulfill the demands of the prompt does not address part of the assignment provides no real textual support for its thesis bases its analysis on a misreading of some part of the text presents one or more incisive insights among others of less value written in a way that is uneven in development with lapses in organization and clarity undermined by serious and prevalent errors in grammar and mechanics
2-1 D/F	 combines two or more serious failures: does not address the actual assignment indicates a serious misreading of the text (or suggest the student did <i>not</i> read it) does not offer textual evidence uses textual evidence in a way that suggests a failure to understand the text is unclear, badly written, or unacceptably brief is marked by egregious errors is written with great style but devoid of content (rare but possible)
Comments	