**ESSAY STYLE GUIDELINES**

1 . The first sentence should introduce the entire subject of the particular essay (the essay should have a descriptive topic sentence). The definition of a term is usually not an appropriate topic sentence.

2. The last sentence of the text a concluding statement that summarizes the subject of this particular essay.

3. The essay should not contain errors in grammar that reduce the readability of the essay (e.g., run on sentences, sentence fragments, missing articles, subject-verb disagreements, etc) and/or any errors in spelling. Don’t forget to proofread and spell-check your essay before submitting it!

4. The essay should not contain any complete sentences copied verbatim from the source material and, therefore, it should be your own sentences and no direct quote from the articles. (The essay has to be submitted in Turnitin for plagiarism check)

5. The essay should addresses all of the guiding questions and the writing prompt, explaining all the ideas correctly and succinctly. The essay should be well organized and clearly presented. And it shouldn’t be simply a list of answers to the guiding questions.

**TEXT RATING GUIDELINES**

NOTE: If an essay contains multiple spelling and/or grammatical errors (including the lack of paragraphs) that make **it difficult to read and understand**, the essay would get a lower point. In the event that there is an evidence of plagiarism, the essay would get zero point. All the essays must be submited in the Turntin so please make sure you are using your own words.

1 or 2- This is the equivalent of 10 – 20 out of 100! The essay is completely unsatisfactory. The essay does not demonstrate any understanding of the concepts, and major points are incorrect. The essay does not address the guiding questions and writing prompt. The essay is disorganized and difficult to follow.

3 or 4- This is the equivalent of 30 – 40 out of 100! The essay demonstrates a vague understanding of the concepts involved. They are not presented clearly. The essay does not fully explain the main ideas, lacks organization, and makes some incorrect statements. The essay weakly addresses the guiding questions and the writing prompt, making vague and minor points.

5 or 6- This is the equivalent of 50 – 60 out of 100! The essay does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the concepts. The essay makes some good points but may contain a few incorrect statements. The clarity of some content is marginal. The essay does not address all of the guiding questions and the writing prompt. The essay has some organization but could be presented more clearly and/or more succinctly.

7 or 8- This is the equivalent of 70-80 out of 100! The essay is a good effort. The essay demonstrates an understanding of the principles and does not make any major incorrect statements. The essay addresses most of the guiding questions and the writing prompt, explaining all the main ideas but a few details may be unnecessary or vague. The essay is mostly clear and well-organized.

9 or 10- This is the equivalent of 90-100 out of 100! The essay excels in all areas. A clear understanding of the concepts is demonstrated without unnecessary, long, or incorrect statements. The essay addresses all of the guiding questions and the writing prompt, explaining all the ideas correctly and succinctly. The essay is well organized and clearly presented. In addition to all of these qualities, a “10” essay must have no serious grammatical or spelling errors.