

Evocative Object Essay – Rubric

An “A” Paper – Brilliant/Excellent (38-42 points)

Demonstrates true thoughtfulness. Interesting and unexpectedly delightful

Title is clever and/or engaging

Opening is unexpected or otherwise intriguing

The essay is thoughtfully organized to keep the reader’s interest, with fluid pacing and excellent paragraph structure

The author uses vivid examples/stories to engage the reader

The author smoothly embeds quotes and references sources

A variety of sentence structures, used strategically to create flow and emphasis

Vivid and specific detail

The writer’s voice comes through, making the piece feel lively and engaging

A “B” Paper – Good/Above Average (34-37 points)

Wrestles with the topic but may be a tad predictable

Title is appropriate to the topic, but lacks inspiration

Opening interests the reader

The essay is organized and pacing is mostly fluid, with a minor bump or two

Examples/stories are a bit vague or fail to engage the reader

The author uses quotes correctly but not smoothly

A variety of sentence structures

Writer attempts to use “showing” details, even if the technique doesn’t always work

The writer’s voice comes through but can feel a bit flat at times

A “C” Paper – Okay/Average (30-33 points)

Doesn’t demonstrate thought beyond cliché or generality (EX: “I like my yearbook because it reminds me of a happy time in my life”/ “My necklace is important because my mom gave it to me, and I love my mom.”)

Title is flat or predictable

Opening is a general statement or cliché (EX: “Some objects mean more to us than other objects.”)

Organization is confusing and pacing a bit off. May repeat itself in places

The author uses quotes, but does not embed them, or they use the word “quote” in their signal phrase

Limited sentence variety, or has occasional sentence structure problems

Needs to use more “showing” details

The writer’s voice is flat, too formal, or rigid

A “D” Paper – Demonstrates Problems/Below Average (25-29 points)

Relies completely on cliché

Title is just a restatement of the title of the work being discussed or just a label

Opening is confusing or is a cliché

Organization is confusing or illogical, paragraph structure is lacking, and/or there is a lot of repetition

Uses sources improperly or does not use at least two sources

Flow is mostly choppy and erratic--little or no sentence variety. Problems with sentence structure obscure meaning

Writer does not use any “showing” details

No writer’s voice is present. The words are lifeless or robotic