

Humanities Core: Animals, People, and Power Grading Rubric for Essay 1: Rhetorical Analysis of a Beast Fable by Marie de France					
	Argumentation	Organization	Methodology	Evidence	Language and Mechanics
A	Essay is controlled by an arguable, complex, and specific thesis that reflects a sophisticated, nuanced, and/or original interpretation of the topic; argumentation is unified and coherent throughout essay	Sequencing of ideas is not only logical but adds to the rhetorical impact of the essay; paragraph structure is dynamically linked to topic sentences and the main thesis of the essay	Precise prose summary illuminates rhetorical features of a poetic fable; in-depth rhetorical analysis of fable's context, purpose, audience and use of persuasive appeals	Evidence is insightfully selected from the primary source and artfully integrated into body paragraphs; proper MLA citation practice is followed in the body text and in the Works Cited page	Virtually no errors in word choice, grammar, or orthography; exhibits style
B	Essay is controlled by an arguable, complex, and specific thesis that reflects a proficient interpretation of the topic; argumentation is largely unified and coherent throughout essay	Sequencing of ideas is logical and effective, leading to essay-level cohesion; each paragraph is unified and organized around a topic sentence linked to the main thesis	Adept prose summary attends to rhetorical features of a poetic fable; adequate application of the conventions of rhetorical analysis to identify fable's context, purpose, audience, and use of persuasive appeals	Evidence is well-selected from the primary source, properly integrated into paragraphs, and contextualized when necessary; proper MLA citation practice is followed in the body text and in the Works Cited page	Few errors in word choice, grammar, and/or orthography and none that impede clarity of ideas; exhibits attention to proofreading and formatting
C	Essay may be controlled by a factual statement, but the articulation of the central idea is inarguable and/or lacks specificity and complexity; argumentation may lack unity or coherence in parts of the essay	Some lapses or digressions from the logical sequencing of ideas; topic sentences govern the construction of most paragraphs, but some are vague or less unified	Summary is present but may not reveal rhetorical features of a poetic text; essay attempts to adopt conventions of rhetorical analysis but inadequately identifies fable's context, purpose, audience, and/or use of persuasive appeals	Evidence is mostly well-selected from the primary source, but may be ineffectively integrated or lack contextualization; MLA citation practice is largely consistent, but may contain some errors in the body text or Works Cited page	Some errors in word choice, grammar, and/or orthography may be present but rarely impede clarity of ideas; exhibits some attention to proofreading and formatting
D	Essay may exhibit a general idea, but its articulation is non-factual, inarguable, vague, and/or undefined; essay as a whole lacks unity or coherence in argumentation	Logical sequencing of ideas hampered by major lapses or digressions; topic sentences absent or ineffective in paragraph construction	Essay fails to either correctly summarize the narrative contents of a poetic fable and/or to adopt methods appropriate to the task of rhetorical analysis	Evidence is poorly selected for the purpose of the argument; essay merely lists evidence, contains unnecessary repetitions, or leaves evidence unexplained; significant errors present in MLA citation practice	Errors in word choice, grammar, and/or orthography are frequent and/or impede clarity of ideas; little or no attention to proofreading and formatting
F	Essay exhibits no discernable central idea; little or no logical advancement of argument	Essay exhibits no logical sequencing or academic paragraph structure	Essay fails to summarize the narrative contents of a poetic fable and to adopt methods appropriate to the task of rhetorical analysis	Essay does not provide evidence in support of argument; responsible citation practices are absent	Persistent errors in word choice, grammar, and orthography; no attention to proofreading and formatting