

Synthesizing the American Dream

SCORING GUIDE

Scoring Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
Ideas	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively synthesizes sources to defend, challenge, or qualify the central claim of the prompt provides a strong thesis that anticipates audience needs uses convincing, thorough, and relevant evidence acknowledges and refutes counterclaims fairly and thoroughly. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequately synthesizes sources to defend, challenge, or qualify the central claim of the prompt provides a straightforward thesis that briefly contextualizes the issue uses support that clearly connects the various source material to the writer's position. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts to synthesize sources but inadequately defends, challenges, or qualifies the central claim of the prompt provides a thesis that attempts to contextualize the issue uses support that connects the source material but with lapses in accuracy or completeness. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tries to synthesize sources but does not defend, challenge, or qualify the claim of the prompt includes a weak thesis or one that is lost in a summary of sources includes support that paraphrases source material with no commentary or analysis.
Structure	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is organized to effectively reinforce the ideas of the argument moves smoothly with successful use of transitions that enhance coherence concludes by going beyond a summary of the thesis by illuminating how the writers' positions will continue to influence the reader. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is organized to support the ideas of the argument arranges ideas so they are easy to follow, using transitions to move between ideas includes a conclusion that is logical yet may be somewhat repetitive to the thesis. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows a simplistic organization with lapses in structure or coherence arranges ideas in a confusing way and with an inconsistent use of transitions includes a conclusion that may be logical yet is too close to the original thesis. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a lack of organization that detracts from argument, making the ideas difficult to follow may jump too rapidly between ideas and lack transitions includes a conclusion that returns directly to the attempted thesis.
Use of Language	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a mature style that advances the writer's ideas employs precise diction and skillful use of syntax, with keen attention to varied sentence openings, which helps to create a convincing voice follows standard writing conventions (including accurate citation of sources). 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a style that adequately supports the writer's ideas uses logical diction and syntax, with some attention to varied sentence openings, creating a suitable voice largely follows standard writing conventions (including accurate citation of sources); errors do not seriously impede readability. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates an inconsistent style that minimally supports the writer's idea unevenly uses diction and syntax to convey a suitable voice, with few varied sentence openings contains errors in standard writing conventions that may impede readability; some sources are inaccurately cited. 	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a limited style that ineffectively supports the writer's ideas contains lapses in diction or syntax that may not allow a suitable voice to sustain throughout the essay; sentence openings may be repetitive contains errors that impede readability; sources may be inaccurately cited.