

UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON
Essay Rubric

Student ID# _____

Directions: Select one performance category in Table A. Within the range of points for that category, record the points scored on the line provided at the bottom of the Table.

A. FOCUS/SCOPE – ORGANIZATION – CONTENT/DEVELOPMENT

Addresses the prompt in an outstanding manner; responds to all aspects of the task; is organized clearly and consistently based on a strong central purpose; provides substantial and specific evidence to support major positions	OUTSTANDING 85 – 100 pts.
Addresses the prompt in an effective manner; responds to several aspects of the task; is organized effectively based on a clear central purpose; provides appropriate evidence to support positions	EXCELLENT 70 – 84 pts.
Addresses the prompt in an adequate manner; focuses on a minor aspect of the task; is organized based on a restatement of the prompt; provides some predictable evidence to support positions	GOOD 55 – 69 pts.
Addresses the prompt in a basic manner; is organized in a limited way; provides evidence that is general or not clearly linked to a position	FAIR 40 – 54 pts.
Addresses the prompt in a limited manner; is organized in a confused way; provides superficial evidence with inadequate elaboration	WEAK 15 – 39 pts.
Fails to address the prompt; absence of organization; absence of relevant content	POOR 0 – 14 pts.

Total for A _____

Directions: Select one performance category in Table B. Within the range of points for that category, record the points scored on the line provided at the bottom of the Table.

B. LANGUAGE/STYLE - CONVENTIONS

Demonstrates exceptional control of sentence structure and precise word choice; is almost entirely free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	OUTSTANDING 85 – 100 pts.
Demonstrates strong control of sentence structure and appropriate word choice; is generally free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	EXCELLENT 70 – 84 pts.
Demonstrates reasonable control of sentence structure and some precision in word choice; contains confusing errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	GOOD 55 – 69 pts.
Demonstrates some lack of control of sentence structure; limited in word choice; minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	FAIR 40 – 54 pts.
Demonstrates some lack of control of sentence structure; minimal variety in word choice; minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	WEAK 15 – 39 pts.
Minimal control of sentence structure; inappropriate word choice; contains serious errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	POOR 0 – 14 pts.

Total for B _____

<p>Off Prompt: (OP) Prompt is not addressed</p> <p><i>OP = Zero Score</i></p>	<p>Nonscorable: (NS) Essay is: <i>illegible</i> <i>insufficient</i> a blank paper</p> <p>NS = Zero Score</p>
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For event coordinator's use only.	
Total points for A _____	X 8 = _____
Total points for B _____	X 2 = _____
TOTAL _____	