**Rubric for Assessing Education Program Application Essays**

*Approved by TEC October 2, 2014*

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| **Criteria** | **3 points**  **Exceeds Expectations** | **2 points**  **Meets Expectations** | **1 point**  **Needs Improvement** | **0 points Inadequate** |
| Introduction | Clear introduction of subject, correct citation format, definition of terms used | Missing one or unclear on more than one: introduction, citations, definitions | Missing more than one: introduction, citations, definitions | Mostly incomplete or unclear introduction |
| Thesis | Thesis statement is specific, analytical and has been used to develop a discussion | Thesis statement is fairly specific, analytical, and can be used to develop discussion | Unclear thesis or plot summary of subject issue | Missing thesis |
| Evidence | At least one piece of evidence per body paragraph that strongly supports thesis | One piece of evidence per body paragraph that supports thesis | Few pieces of evidence used or did not fully describe evidence to support thesis | Evidence does not support thesis |
| Analysis | Specific and thorough analysis of each piece of evidence using concrete language | Analysis of each piece of evidence; analysis depth may be somewhat inconsistent but present | Inconsistent analysis; use of vague general language | Analysis of any evidence unclear or missing |
| Coherence | Body paragraphs support thesis; transitions between paragraphs create logical links of analysis | Paragraphs support thesis but may do so somewhat inconsistently or not in strong logical order | Few logical transitions between paragraphs; support of thesis is shallow | Paragraphs do not support thesis |
| Conclusion | Essay ends with strong, dynamic conclusion | Conclusion is solid but may lack strong effect | Conclusion merely repeats thesis | No or very weak conclusion |
| Grammar and Form | Essay contains no grammatical or mechanical errors and uses sentence structure for effect and impact | Essay contains few grammatical or mechanical errors and uses clearly structured sentences | Essay contains many grammatical or mechanical errors. Sentence structure is overly simplistic | Essay contains many grammatical or mechanical errors that prevent communication of ideas to the reader |

Must score 14/21 points to be accepted with no criteria receiving a zero