## General Writing Criteria

### Argumentation
- Is the thesis clearly written?
- Is the thesis complex and illuminating?
- Does the essay contain strong evidence?
- If you take the argument at face value, is it coherent?
- Is the conclusion justified by the evidence and argumentation that proceeded it?

### Structure
- Are the paragraphs effectively built, with a logical flow of sentences within each?
- Are there effective transitions between paragraphs?
- Do the paragraphs build in both logic and momentum, so that the argument is convincing and compelling?

### Style
- Is the language precise?
- Has the writer avoided unnecessary repetition?
- Has the writer successfully deployed language without the obvious use of a thesaurus or the abundant misuse of words?

### Mechanics
- Is the essay largely clean of errors in mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation)?