

Name: _____

Social Studies Essay Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Ideas/ Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thesis is exceptionally clear, focused, and arguable *Main ideas obviously stand out as important to supporting the thesis *Details richly support main ideas and are well-suited to the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thesis is clear and focused but not very arguable *Main ideas are clear *Details are suitable to the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thesis is understandable but not very effective *Main ideas are too broad and/or overly simplistic *Details are limited and/or overly general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thesis is unclear and/or lacks focus *Main ideas require the reader to make inferences *Details do not support the main ideas very well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thesis is missing in action *Main ideas are unclear *Details are irrelevant
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Order/structure move the reader through the text *Intro and conclusion are creative and effective *Transitions are effortless *Details fit where placed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Order/structure present *Intro and conclusion are effective *Transitions are smooth *Details fit where placed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Order/structure is inconsistent *Intro and conclusion present but too obvious *Transitions attempted and work sometimes *Details are not always well placed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Order/structure lacking *Intro and conclusion are underdeveloped *Transitions not effective *Details seem randomly placed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Order/structure haphazard *Intro and conclusion missing in action *Transitions not effective *Details confusing
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Word choice is striking, varied, and powerful *Slang, if used, is purposeful and effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Word choice is varied and appropriate but not powerful *Slang, if used, is effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Word choice works but is not interesting or powerful *Slang is too frequent and not purposeful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Word choice is flat, imprecise, and repetitious *Expression detracts from the message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Word choice is limited or inappropriate
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Exceptionally strong sense of audience, topic, purpose *Engaging, lively, honest, exciting, humorous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sense of the audience, topic, purpose *Engaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Limited sense of audience, topic, purpose *Inappropriately casual or stiff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lack of awareness of audience, topic, purpose *Writing is flat/lifeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lack of awareness of audience, topic, purpose *No hint of the writer behind the words
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Effective flow and rhythm *Variation in sentence length, structure, beginnings *Strong control over simple/complex sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Flow and rhythm *Some repeated patterns in sentence length, structure, and beginnings *Control over simple sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Flow and rhythm are not fluid and may cause reader to slow down *Repeated patterns in sentence length, structure and beginnings *Control over simple sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Choppy and rambling; awkward *Monotonous sentence structures *Little control over simple sentence structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Incomplete, fragmented, rambling *Difficult to follow *No control over sentence structure
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *No significant errors *Easy to read *Little or no need for editing *MLA formatting followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Minor errors *Easy to read, despite errors *Moderate need for editing *MLA formatting mostly followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Some errors *Readable Significant need for editing *MLA formatting attempted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Frequent, significant errors *Difficult to read *Substantial editing needed *MLA formatting needs work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Extensive errors *Almost impossible to read *Extensive editing needed *MLA formatting missing in action

Total Score: /