## Honors Thesis Assessment/Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **A** | Clear, well-written thesis statement/argument  
- Exceptional analysis that includes detailed explanations of evidence  
- Methodology is in accordance with the academic field  
- Excellent review of the relevant academic literature  
- Evidentiary examples are specific, detailed, and organized; their relevance to the stated thesis is direct and explicit  
- Uses 18+ academic sources from experts within the field; additional sources (media, primary documents, etc.) are relevant, and they are not treated as scholarly source material  
- Each paragraph is clearly related to and supports the stated thesis.  
- Exceptional quality of writing, including sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, transitions, appropriate sentence and paragraph lengths, spelling, non-sexist language; paper is spell-checked and proof-read; student carefully explains academic jargon and concepts  
- Citations appear appropriately throughout the paper, and they are in the proper format for the academic field  
- Bibliography includes all cited sources in the proper format |
| **B** | Clear, well-written thesis statement/argument  
- Good analysis that includes detailed explanations of evidence  
- Methodology is in accordance with the academic field  
- Good review of the relevant academic literature  
- Evidentiary examples are specific, detailed, and organized; their relevance to the stated thesis is direct and explicit  
- Uses 15+ academic sources from experts within the field; additional sources (media, primary documents, etc.) are relevant, and they are not treated as scholarly material  
- Each paragraph is clearly related to and supports the stated thesis.  
- Good quality of writing, including sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, transitions, appropriate sentence and paragraph lengths, spelling; paper is spell-checked and proofread; student adequately explains academic jargon and concepts  
- Citations appear throughout the paper in the proper format  
- Bibliography includes all cited sources in the proper format |
| **C** | Poorly stated thesis/argument  
- Average analysis that includes superficial explanations of evidence  
- Average or limited review of relevant academic literature  
- Examples are vague, under-explained, and/or do not directly support thesis  
- Uses less than 12 academic sources, and/or uses non-scholarly texts as academic sources  
- Paragraphs are generally connected to thesis, but they are unclear and disorganized.  
- Fair quality of writing, including sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, transitions, appropriate sentence and paragraph lengths, spelling; paper is spell-checked and proofread; student adequately explains academic jargon and concepts |
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| D     | • Implied, not stated, thesis  
• Summary, rather than analysis, of the evidence  
• Vague or no review of the relevant academic literature  
• Examples are general, vague, redundant, and/or unrelated to thesis  
• Uses less than 10 academic sources  
• Some paragraphs loosely connect to but still support thesis  
• Poor quality of writing; numerous, repetitive mistakes; failure to spell-check or proofread  
• Citations are consistently improperly placed and/or formatted  
• Bibliography does not include all cited source and/or is not in the proper format |
| F     | • No stated or implied thesis  
• No evidentiary examples, or examples have no clear relevance  
• Uses no academic sources  
• No central theme or point  
• Very poor quality of writing  
• No citations, or all citations are improper  
• Bibliography does not include all cited sources, is not in the proper format, or is not included  
**OR** There is evidence of plagiarism in the paper. |

A+=>96  
A=90-96  
B+=87-89  
B=80-86  
C+=77-79  
C=70-76  
D+=67-69  
D=60-66  
F=<60