Essay #2

A  To earn an “A” on essay #2, a student must
1. Adhere to all assignment requirements (MLA style and formatting, length, assigned topic).
2. Provide an insightful and sophisticated thesis.
3. Remain focused on the topic and thesis, providing effective textual evidence and compelling analysis throughout the essay.
4. With few exceptions, guide the argument via strong topic sentences and appropriate transitions.
5. Have few grammatical errors, none of which interfere with coherence.

B  To earn a “B” on essay #2, a student must
1. Adhere to all assignment requirements (MLA style and formatting, length, assigned topic).
2. Anchor essay via a clear thesis statement that posits concrete claim(s) about the assigned text(s) and topic(s).
3. Provide sound analysis that follows standard rules of paragraph construction (topic sentences, supporting evidence, explication), with most paragraphs adequately developed.
4. Have no distracting pattern of error, with no more than three major grammatical errors.

C  To earn a “C” on essay #2, a student must
1. Respond to all of the constraints of the assignment:
   a. Format essay according to MLA style guidelines with few errors
   b. Paper should meet the minimum length requirement specified on the assignment sheet.
   c. Paper should adequately respond to one of the topics assigned.
2. Posit a clear thesis/argument:
   a. Thesis must center on a claim, though it may lack specificity.
   b. Essay should be comprised primarily of textual analysis, though it may lack development in some areas.
   c. Essay should demonstrate an understanding of the text(s).
3. Present a reasonably organized essay:
   a. Essay should contain introductory and conclusion paragraphs.
   b. Body paragraphs should be of reasonable length with supporting textual evidence and accompanying analysis, though further elaboration may be in order.
   c. Most paragraphs should contain recognizable topic sentences with appropriate transitions.
4. Maintain a tone appropriate for the audience:
   a. Avoid excessive colloquialisms or informal language.
   b. Essay should not rest on personal opinion.
5. Construct grammatically sound paragraphs with no pervasive pattern of grammatical errors and/or sentence-level incoherence.

D  A “D” grade results from
1. Failing to adhere to basic assignment requirements.
2. A lack of substantive analysis (i.e. an essay that rests primarily on observation or summary).
3. A pattern of major grammatical errors and/or sentence-level incoherence.

F  An “F” grade results from
Two or more of the issues listed under “D” above.