# ICE Assessment Rubric for Essays

Student:

|  | **Ideas** | **Connections** | **Extensions** |
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| **Critical Thinking** | Thesis proposes a general topic for discussion.  Accurately describes content.  Identifies elements for analysis or contrast.  Sequences observations. | Thesis proposes a relationship between disparate elements.  Applies theoretical models or illustrates patterns and connections.  Formulates generalizations based on evidence. | Thesis suggests significance or purpose for an identified relationship.  Extrapolates from comparisons or applications to create new knowledge or awareness.  Extends thinking beyond the confines of the texts. |
| **Reasoning** | Assembles evidence relevant to general topic. | Evidence is linked directly to claims.  Connections between claims, evidence and conclusions are logically sound. | Evaluates alternative or opposing viewpoints.  Validates conclusions. |
| **Communication** | Uses clear, direct, and conventional language.  Uses paragraphs to sequence distinct ideas.  Uses words in accordance with their correct meaning.  Corrects previous errors.  Errors of grammar or spelling do not detract from readability.  Citations are cited to MLA, APA or Chicago Manual of Style. | Uses language to build bridges between concepts.  Use of language contributes to the interest of the reader and enhances the presentation of ideas. | Modifies language and structure to reflect the structure of the argument.  Uses language to communicate personal relevance. |