# Composition and Argument: Evaluation Criteria for Sourced Essay

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Topic:</td>
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## Thesis
A thesis statement provides the conclusion that you draw about your argumentative topic. Thesis statements should be direct and specific. It needs to be proven and/or argued, and at its best, implies the organizational structure of the essay. For a position essay, you need to take a clear stance.

## Topic Statements
Each paragraph has a statement that focuses it. Like a thesis statement, a topic statement needs to be proven with evidence but within that paragraph. Your paragraph must be focused on proving its topic statement.

## Organization
The essay is logically structured to help the reader understand the content and to persuade. The essay remains focused, and has a clear introduction and conclusion that frame the discussion of the essay.

## Content
The topic fits the assignment and is explored with originality and insight. The content shows a thorough understanding of the topic and depth of inquiry. The position essay considers takes into consideration the opposing perspective.

## Sentence Structure
Essay uses standard conventions of written English including but not limited to clear, complete, and varied sentence structures; appropriate syntax (word order); and an appropriate formal tone.

## Research Skills
Essay incorporates sources in various ways including paraphrases, summaries, and direct quotations with signal phrases used variously. Sources are used logically and to strengthen the essay. Parenthetical documentation and works cited are accurate.

## Workshop Participation
Process is central to this course. For this essay, “process” includes attendance at the individual conference and doing prewriting and drafting.

## Final grade

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- **Name**: 
- **Topic**: 
- **Comments**: 

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