Analyzing Famous Speeches as Arguments
Essay Rubric

Feature	3 Fully Developed	2 Partly Developed	1 Underdeveloped
Structure	Interesting and effective opening, body and conclusion; progresses in a logical, easy-to-follow order; all paragraphs seem to be the proper length; the writer consistently supports the thesis; the thesis is strong and engaging/interesting—combines a sense of the speech's argument and the language used to convey it	Clear opening, body and conclusion; mostly progresses in a logical, easy-to-follow order; most paragraphs seem to be the proper length; the writer rarely digresses from the thesis with unnecessary information; the thesis attempts to identify the speech's argument and the language used to convey it	Unclear or missing opening, body or conclusion; order is unclear or ineffective; some paragraphs ramble or are underdeveloped; the writer frequently digresses from the thesis; thesis is weak/does not convincingly or accurately identify the speech's argument or language used to convey it
Content	Thesis is consistently developed with strong concrete details/examples and commentary; very thorough and interesting interpretation and explanation; insightful attention to audience, rhetorical devices, and elements of argumentation	Thesis is mostly developed with concrete details/examples and commentary; somewhat thorough interpretation and explanation; attention to audience, rhetorical devices, and elements of argumentation	Thesis is underdeveloped with few concrete details/examples or commentary; limited or inaccurate interpretation and explanation; little to attention to audience, rhetorical devices, and elements of argumentation
Research	Effective use of sources to support and enhance thesis; all quotations well integrated and cited properly	Mostly effective use of sources to support and enhance thesis; most quotations well integrated and cited properly	Information from sources generally does not support and enhance thesis; quotations are not well integrated and cited properly
Style	Effective sentence variety; clear prose used to provide a unique perspective and strong voice; sophisticated diction	Some sentence variety; mostly clear prose and somewhat detectable voice; effective, but perhaps unsophisticated, diction	Little sentence variety; passages of unclear prose or flat, undetectable voice; ineffective or consistently unsophisticated diction
Format and Mechanics	Few errors in grammar and punctuation, spelling, format	Some noticeable or distracting errors in grammar and punctuation, spelling, format	Many noticeable or distracting errors in grammar and punctuation, spelling, format