The essay must be at least 650 typed words in order to be accepted for grading.

**MLA Heading (worth 5 points)**
- Header in the upper right-hand corner has last name, a space, then a page number ______/2
- The student name, instructor, course name, and date are on left-side of first page ______/2
- Title is centered and in the form of a question (ex: Should UCHS Host PETA?) ______/1

**Introduction (worth 7 points)**
- The first sentence grabs the reader’s attention ______/1
- The introduction describes the issue, then smoothly and gradually narrows it ______/2
- The last sentence is the thesis; states the writer’s position on the issue and reasons ______/4

**Body (worth 56 points)**
- First body paragraph begins with a topic sentence related to the thesis ______/1
- Elaborates on the writer’s position with facts, examples, authoritative opinions ______/5
- Facts, data, and ideas have value and significance ______/2
- Correctly documents the sources of ideas, facts, and quotations (MLA in-text) ______/2
- Uses transitional words to clarify the relationships among ideas ______/1
- Second body paragraph begins with a topic sentence related to the thesis ______/1
- Elaborates on the writer’s position with facts, examples, authoritative opinions ______/5
- Facts, data, and ideas have value and significance ______/2
- Correctly documents the sources of ideas, facts, and quotations (MLA in-text) ______/2
- Uses transitional words to clarify the relationships among ideas ______/1
- Third body paragraph begins with a topic sentence related to the thesis ______/1
- Elaborates on the writer’s position with facts, examples, authoritative opinions ______/5
- Facts, data, and ideas have value and significance ______/2
- Correctly documents the sources of ideas, facts, and quotations (MLA in-text) ______/2
- Uses transitional words to clarify the relationships among ideas ______/1
- Anticipates possible counterarguments/opposition arguments (with cited sources) ______/10
- Employs effective rebuttals to the counterarguments ______/10
- Uses appropriate voice, tone, and style (No “I,” “me,” “my,”; no slang) ______/3

**Conclusion (worth 7 points)**
- Restates the three key points from the body of the essay and sums up reasoning ______/4
- Includes a strong, authoritative call to action ______/3

**Works Cited Page (worth 10 points)**
- Has a separate Works Cited page that follows the MLA format ______/7
- Has a variety of works cited (Yahoo!, Google, and Wikipedia are not works) ______/3

**Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics (worth 5 points)**
- Contains few errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, word choice, etc. ______/5

**Total**
- 81 – 90 = A
- 72 – 80 = B
- 63 – 71 = C
- 62 or below = Must re-do