Below is a rubric that you can use as a guideline for how your paper will be graded.

Social Studies Explanatory Essay Rubric	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
Organization (Demonstrates organization: Shows strong introduction, addresses topic, main idea, and contains main body and conclusion of the paper) Worth: 30%	a. Contains solid introduction. b. Well developed main body paragraphs. c. Conclusion with a perspective. d. Clear thesis and evidence if applicable.	a. Contains introduction. b. Contains main body paragraphs. c. Contains conclusion. d. Contains thesis and evidence if applicable.	a. Weak introduction b. Weak main body paragraphs. c. Weak conclusion. d. Unclear thesis and inconsistent evidence.	a. Very poor or no introduction. b. Very poor or no main body paragraphs. c. Very poor or no conclusion. d. Very poor or no thesis and/or evidence.
Development of Ideas (Knowledge of evidence from the social science: facts, supporting details; and concepts/ideas) Worth: 30%	a. Logical progression of ideas. b. Transitions easy to follow, clear and effective. c. Shows understanding of major ideas.	a. Some inconsistencies in progression of ideas, unity or coherence. b. Transitions clear, evident and understandable. c. Demonstrates detailed understanding of ideas.	a. Major inconsistencies in the development of ideas, unity, and/or coherence. b. Transitions missing or very weak. c. Very poor understanding of ideas.	a. No progression of ideas, unity, or coherence. b. Transitions missing or weak. c. Lack of understanding of ideas.
Details and Content (Use of source material and citation) Worth: 20%	 a. Discussion reveals both depth and breadth in the mastery of content, level of analysis, and/or solutions to problems. b. Contains all expected content c. Appropriate citations and bibliography as required. 	a. Discussion reveals mastery of content, coherent analysis, and/or solutions to problems. b. Contains most expected content. c. Minor errors in citations and/or bibliography.	a. Discussion reveals some mastery of content, coherent analysis, and/or solutions to problems. b. Contains some expected content. c. Errors in citations and bibliography.	a. Discussion reveals major errors in content, nearly incoherent analysis, and/or little or no solutions to problems. b. Contains almost no expected content. c. Citations and/or bibliography missing.