

## TOK ESSAY MARKING KEY

Directions: These are the comments linked to the numbers on your essay. Please spend time thinking about how these can apply to the place/section of your essay.

- 1) Problem with definition
  - a. Usually this is because the definitions are straight out of a dictionary and are not linked to the context of the PT (Prescribed Title)
  - b. Sometimes the definition is not personalized in any way
- 2) Lack of comparison of ideas
  - a. This means that you have discussed two ideas without talking about either of them in comparison to the other
- 3) Generalizations
  - a. Words such as “always, never” should be avoided
  - b. Vague terms such as “few, many” should also be avoided
  - c. Other generalizations need to also be refined
- 4) Problems with the introduction
  - a. Doesn’t do one of the things required (see resources for list)
  - b. There are arguments put forward in the introduction
- 5) Criterion and/or rationale on which evaluation and/or judgments are made is not explained/clear
- 6) Problems w/ Perspective
  - a. This can be that there are no other perspectives considered/stated
  - b. No consideration/explanation given as to under what circumstances the situation might be different/produce a different outcome/judgment
- 7) No linkage to PT
  - a. It is not clear what this has to do with addressing the PT as this is not explained explicitly in the essay
- 8) Problems with examples
  - a. None given
  - b. Poorly chosen
  - c. Poorly utilized
- 9) Problematic Analysis
  - a. None given
  - b. Hard to follow
  - c. Shallow/Obvious
  - d. Unhelpful in addressing the PT
- 10) Problems with Language
  - a. Hard to follow/unclear
  - b. Poor grammar
  - c. Poor word choice
  - d. Confusing syntax
  - e. Bad word choice
- 11) Poorly structured paragraph
- 12) Paragraph as a whole does not help the essay: needs to be reworked
- 13) Lack of connection between ideas
  - a. Sometimes between ideas that just been introduced
  - b. Can be no connection to PT (see #5)
  - c. Unclear why this is included and/or how it helps address the PT
- 14) Claim not supported
  - a. No evidence given to support the knowledge claim written

- b. Weak evidence given
- 15) Problems with referencing
  - a. No/poor reference given for “uncommon” knowledge
- 16) KQ Issues
  - a. Claim should be in the form of a KQ which can then be explored
  - b. KQ is unclear/link to PT is unclear
  - c. KQ not fully addressed
- 17) Problems with the conclusion
  - a. New arguments given
  - b. Does not address the PT
  - c. Lacking a proper conclusion
- 18) Interesting – Say More
  - a. There is more to say here which should be helpful to the essay
  - b. Look at implications
  - c. Look at perspectives
  - d. Examine assumptions
  - e. Find links/comparisons to other ideas (either stated in the essay or not yet stated)
- 19) Problem with evidence
  - a. Not given
  - b. Poorly used
  - c. Poorly chosen
- 20) Lacks exploration of the counterclaim to this idea
- 21) Vague
  - a. Generalized (see #3)
  - b. Problems with language not conveying meaning
  - c. Open to interpretation
- 22) Erroneous
  - a. Just plain wrong
- 23) Implications needs exploring
  - a. There are important implications here that you have not been noticed and/or discussed
- 24) Poor transition
  - a. Jumping from one idea to another without warning/linkage
- 25) Problem with relevance
  - a. Relevance to the line of argumentation is not clear
  - b. This isn’t relevant to the PT
- 26) Value-laden language
  - a. Your language betrays your perspective: “good people....bad ideas” etc and needs to be changed
- 27) Assumptions not addressed

If “REVERSE” is written on your paper it means that the conclusion you have reached at this point should be put AFTER the evidence is considered and not before.