Your essay must contain……

1. General-to-specific introduction that provides reader with context/background
2. Introduction develops slowly, thoughtfully
3. Introduction leads to clearly articulated thesis statement
4. Thesis contains position and rationale
5. Thesis is focused enough to need only 4-5 pages of “proof”; broad enough to sustain 4-5 pages of material

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1. Your essay acts as the proof of your thesis.
2. Paragraphing makes sense
3. Paragraphs stand as “whole” units
4. Paragraphs pass the test of *order, unity, coherence, completeness*
5. Paragraphs are guided by a clear, definitive topic sentence, stated near the top of each paragraph
6. Paragraphs are well-developed with supporting material—sentences of:
   1. Explanation
   2. Definition
   3. Description
   4. Introduction
   5. Conclusion
   6. Connection
   7. Transition
   8. Quotes
   9. Fact
   10. Opinion
   11. Example
   12. Analysis, etc….
7. Not only does the material *within* paragraphs follow a logical order, but paragraphs themselves follow one another in logical order *throughout* the essay
8. Thoughtful, clear transitions occur from one paragraph to another

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1. The topic is critically engaged, showing the writer’s deep understanding of all sides of the issue, and his/her ability to deal with the complexities of the issue
2. Secondary sources are engaged in a thoughtful, meaningful way
3. Writer shows clear understanding of secondary sources used
4. Secondary sources are smoothly integrated within a paragraph’s argument
5. Quoted matter observes APA or MLA style
6. Quoted matter receives proper introduction, analysis, and citation, and is accurately quoted

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1. Conclusion brings the essay to a close in a thoughtful way
2. Conclusion reminds reader of what went on in the essay, but is not repetitive
3. Conclusion answers the question “so what?”
4. Conclusion works specific-to-general in its structure
5. Conclusion leaves the reader with something to think about
6. Conclusion brings essay to a close, acting as the writer’s “good-bye” to the reader